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CONFIDENTIAL.

(6890.)

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PART 13.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

25

January to June 1896.

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ERRATA.

Page 6, No. 8. Date should be December 31, instead of November 31.
Page 39, No. 60, line 1. For "22nd December" read "22nd September."

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

Part 13.

No. 1.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 4, 1896.)

(No. 174.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 19, 1895.

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday your Lordship's telegram No. 45 in regard to the continued delay in the payment of the Cape Juby indemnity, and I have again addressed the Vizier on the subject in a communication of which I beg leave to inclose a copy.

Although in this case I do not think that the Moorish Government are actuated by any ill-will, or that their neglect to fulfil their obligations is due to any cause but their customary dilatoriness in such matters, still I thought that if an intimation were given that claims for interest might be preferred, they might be more impressed with the fact that the matter was of urgent importance, and demanded an immediate settlement. I therefore inserted in my note a passage to that effect.

In his last communication to me the Vizier stated that two functionaries had been specially appointed to expedite the counting of the money, a transaction which should have been terminated by now. It is possible that there is some difficulty in forwarding the coin to the coast, but this hindrance, if it exists, should be obviated with the approach of the Sultan and his troops to Morocco city, and, it is to be hoped, the consequent pacification of the districts and the restoration of security to the trade routes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, December* 18, 1895.

YOUR Excellency was good enough to tell me in your friendly communication of the 23rd Jumad I, 1313, that the money due on account of the Cape Juby indemnity would shortly reach my hands, and I have since been waiting in daily expectation of receiving the money, or of hearing that it has left Morocco city.

I duly informed my Government, so that the Company to whom the money is due might be acquainted that the money would shortly be paid, and I assured them at the same time that I was confident that your Excellency was hastening matters.

But, oh friend, it is now three months since the money should have been paid, and my Government and the Company are urgent that no further delay should occur. As the non-payment is causing great embarrassment to the Company, you will see, oh intelligent one, that this is not right, and I request you to send orders, pressing and severe, that the money should be immediately sent, so that the Company do not suffer unjustly on account of this long-delayed payment.

It would be well to avoid all claims for interest on the delayed payment, and for any losses which the Company may suffer on account of the money not having been paid when due.

As a friend I write to you, but the matter is urgent.

Peace.

No. 2.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 4, 1896.)

(No. 175.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 20, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 144 of the 7th instant forwarding the statements of claim from the shipper, owner, and crew of the falucho "Virgen de los Angeles" for the losses incurred through the plundering of that vessel by Riff Moors. I beg leave to inclose copy of the note which I have addressed to the Grand Vizier, formulating the claim of 23,271 pesetas 89 centimos, and requesting that no delay should occur in settling the matter. I have also requested that an expression of regret should be made for the plunder of a vessel flying the British flag and belonging to British subjects.

Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke informed me two days ago that the Governor of Tetuan had succeded in capturing some Riffians, and that among the prisoners were two men whom the captain of the "Virgen de los Angeles" had recognized as forming part of the band which had pillaged his ship. The captain paid a visit to this Legation yesterday, and I am sending him back to Tetuan to-day with a letter from Cid Mohammed Torres to the Governor of Tetuan, directing the latter to confront the men with the captain, and if they were identified as forming part of the piratical band, to keep them under safe arrest until he received further instructions. I have written to Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke to accompany the captain when he is confronted with the prisoners, and to impress on the Governor the importance of retaining the men under safe and sure guard.

I would propose that if the captain is satisfied as to the identity of the men, and that on examination they are unable to bring conclusive evidence that they did not participate in the pillage of the vessel, to request the Moorish authorities to sentence them to ten years' imprisonment. I should add, however, that this request will be more a matter of form, as no fixed terms of sentences are given in this country, but I will impress on the authorities that the men are not to be released until this Legation has assented thereto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, December* 19, 1895.

IT is my duty, under instructions from my Government, to inform your Excellency that a very careful and searching inquiry has been made into the losses incurred by the shipper, owner, master, and crew of the British vessel "Virgen de los Angeles," which, as you are aware, was plundered by Riff Moors near Alhucemas on the 16th of last September.

The interested parties gave their evidence on oath, and a careful and minute scrutiny was made of their several claims, and those which were not considered as strictly justified were excluded.

After this careful examination the losses incurred by the several parties above

mentioned were found to amount to 23,271 pesetas 89 centimos, and it is this amount which I am instructed by Her Majesty's Government to claim of the Moorish Government.

I have no doubt, oh friend, that you will promptly satisfy this just claim, and that you will enable me to inform my Government that the money has been placed at my disposal without any delay. This is urgent and important.

Now, oh friend, it is necessary that I should impress on you very seriously that these piratical acts must not be permitted to continue—the evil-doers must be severely punished, and every measure taken to allow peaceful and innocent people to ply their trade undisturbed by malefactors and in proper safety and security. On this I should like to receive assurance.

You wrote to Mr. White on the 18th Rabbia II, 1313, that His Majesty—whom God exalt—was impressed and greatly upset by these evil-doings, that he found them detestable, and that he did not wish that such a thing should occur to anybody, more so to us his friends. These were wise and just words, and no doubt, oh friend, you will write to me and tell me that I may inform my Government thereof, how deeply His Majesty—whom God prosper—regrets that a ship belonging to British subjects and flying the British flag was robbed and plundered, and that British subjects have suffered grievous injury at the hands of some of His Majesty's subjects.

I ask this of you, oh friend, and may you continue in health and prosperity.

Peace.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 3.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 4, 1896.)

(No. 179.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 23, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 169 of the 26th November, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the note which has been drawn up in reply to the Circular of the Grand Vizier announcing the intention of the Sultan to send an expedition into the Houz district to punish indiscriminately protected and non-protected natives.

As I believe some of my colleagues propose sending the note to their Governments for approval, I would be glad, before transmitting it to the Moorish Government, to be informed if your Lordship concurs in the tenour of the communication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Proposed Reply of Foreign Representatives to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(Compliments d'usage.)

J'AI l'honneur de répondre à la note que, par ordre de Sa Majesté le Sultan, votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 18 Djumada I, 1313 (6 Novembre, 1895).

Après avoir énuméré les faits de révolte qui se sont produits depuis la mort du Sultan Moulay Hassan dans certaines Kabyles Arabes du sud de l'Empire, et les actes contraires à la justice, commis par ces derniers, votre Excellence me fait savoir que la raison principale des crimes perpétrés par ces mêmes Kabyles doit être recherché, ainsi que le Maghzen en a acquis la certitude, en ce que les protégés et Mohalatas des négociants étrangers résidant parmi elles, excitent leurs camarades, les encouragent et les aident, par des secours d'hommes, de chevaux, et d'armes, et qu'ils les soutiennent dans leurs refus de payer les impôts dus au Gouvernement Chérifien. A l'appui de ces affirmations, votre Excellence cite les témoignages des Caïds de ces mêmes Kabyles, de Notables, et des Zauias. Elle ajoute que les faits dont il s'agit, sont d'ailleurs notoires et suffisamment prouvés par de nombreux documents.

Il est dit dans la lettre de votre Excellence que par suite de cet état de choses, les Représentants étrangers ont adressé des lettres à Sa Majesté Chérifienne pour

réclamer des dédommagements en faveur de leurs sujets, protégés et associés agricoles du chef d'agression, vols et rapines commis à leur détriment.

En portant ce qui précède à ma connaissance, conformément aux ordres de son auguste Maître, votre Excellence exprime la conviction que nul homme doué d'intelligence ne pourrait ignorer que la tolérance d'actes semblables et leur impunité aurait pour effet d'augmenter le nombre de ces crimes; qu'il convient de châtier les Kabyles dont il s'agit, puisqu'elles persistent dans l'ignorance, dans la cruauté, et dans la révolte, et qu'elles ne sauraient rentrer dans la bonne voie qu'après une punition exemplaire, qui leur serait infligée, ainsi que cela a été pratiqué à leur égard depuis les temps les plus reculés.

Votre Excellence m'informe par conséquent que Sa Majesté le Sultan a pris la détermination de châtier sévèrement tous ceux qui se seront rendus coupables d'actes criminels, qu'ils soient ou non couverts par la protection étrangère ou par l'Association Agricole, afin qu'il en soit fait justice jusqu'à ce que le Maghzen et ses sujets, ainsi que les négociants des Puissances amies résidant dans cet Empire bienheureux, soient rentrés dans leurs droits; et ceci pour le motif qu'il ne saurait exister aux yeux de qui que ce soit, d'action plus blâmable, ni de plus condamnable de celle qui consiste à fomenter des désordres.

J'ai lu avec la plus profonde attention l'exposé qui précède, et je m'empresse de présenter, en réponse, à votre Excellence, les observations suivantes.

Les crimes imputés aux Kabyles Arabes, dont il est question, sont certainement de nature à mériter un châtiment des plus sévères. En l'infligeant, le Sultan exercera un droit que nul ne pourrait lui contester. Et ce châtiment, je n'en doute point, aura pour effet de ramener la paix et l'obéissance parmi les tribus révoltés de l'Empire, à la prospérité duquel mon Gouvernement prend le plus vif intérêt.

En déclarant vouloir exercer son droit de punir, Sa Majesté le Sultan annonce en outre son intention de faire justice non seulement de ceux parmi ses sujets qui relèvent directement de son autorité, mais de ceux également qui sont couverts par la protection étrangère, et que les autorités Marocaines accusent d'avoir trempé dans les crimes d'excitation à la rébellion et des violences susmentionnées.

Votre Excellence ne peut ignorer que pour ce qui concerne les protégés sur lesquels le droit de protection solennellement reconnu en maintes occasions, et par des actes écrits, confère aux Représentants étrangers une juridiction exclusive, le Maghzen ne saurait d'aucune façon les considérer comme justiciables par lui-même. Quant aux Mohalatas, ils ne jouissent point de la protection, qui s'étend toutefois aux biens des négociants étrangers, qu'ils ont mission d'administrer. Et c'est dans le but de rendre la protection de ces biens efficace que la Convention de Madrid, à l'Article IX, stipule que les Mohalatas ne pourront être arrêtés sans avis préalable à l'autorité dont ils dépendent.

La décision de Sa Majesté le Sultan si elle était mise en exécution, porterait atteinte à un droit existant en vertu d'une très longue consuétude, formellement reconnue et consacrée par des Traités ratifiés par les glorieux ancêtres de Sa Majesté Chérifienne et par son illustre père Moulay Hassan.

Votre Excellence doit être persuadé, qu'ainsi que mes collègues les Représentants étrangers, je suis tout prêt à donner, dans l'étendue de mes pouvoirs, ma meilleure assistance au Gouvernement Marocain dans la tâche qu'il a entreprise de pacifier le pays. Je ne pourrais pas, cependant, faire abandon des droits et privilèges que j'ai mission de sauvegarder. Les listes des protégés Britanniques et des Mohalatas sont entre les mains des autorités Marocaines, et elles n'ont qu'à me signaler les noms de ceux contre lesquels il y a quelque accusation.

Loin de vouloir que la protection, conférée aux individus dans l'intérêt du commerce étranger, serve d'abri à des criminels, et que sous son égide, ces derniers se livrent à des actes contraires à la justice, et à des actes condamnables, en semant le désordre dans ce territoire de Sa Majesté, je déclare à votre Excellence que je n'hésiterais pas un instant à punir ces criminels, dès que leurs crimes seraient prouvés.

Quant aux Mohalatas, je me ferai un devoir de les laisser à l'autorité Marocaine, après qu'on aura retiré d'entre leurs mains les intérêts qui leur sont confiés, et dès que leur participation aux troubles et aux violences aura été régulièrement dénoncée et vérifiée.

Dans cet esprit de justice et d'impartialité, dont votre Excellence voudra bien se pénétrer, je m'engage, par conséquent, à examiner avec le soin le plus scrupuleux et la plus parfaite équité, les accusations que le Gouvernement Marocain aura à formuler contre tel ou tel parmi les protégés de ma Mission, ou Mohalatas, employés par ses

ressortissants; mais je ne pourrais consentir à ce que la mesure annoncée s'exerce d'une façon collective, sur tous les protégés indistinctement, sans que la Mission en soit informée, et qu'ils soient entendus.

En attendant, et afin de montrer à votre Excellence mon sincère désir de faciliter, en la circonstance, la tâche du Gouvernement Marocain, je vais donner à tous les Agents Consulaires Britanniques l'instruction formelle d'enjoindre aux protégés et Mohalatas de leur juridiction d'avoir à s'abstenir de tout acte contraire au respect de l'autorité de Sa Majesté le Sultan et de ses Représentants.

Je nourris l'espoir que Sa Majesté l'Empereur trouvera dans cette réponse le témoignage le plus sûr de la sincère amitié, qui anime mes relations avec le Maghzen.

Je suis persuadé que le Gouvernement Marocain appréciera les vues ci-dessus énoncées, et qu'il ne prendra pas des mesures qui pourraient léser les droits garantis par les Conventions, car je ne désire nullement être mis dans la pénible nécessité de présenter des réclamations pour des dommages que pourraient encourir mes administrés.

Salut.

No. 4.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 7, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 18th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state that Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco reports that on receipt of the telegraphic instructions sent to him on that day, he at once addressed a further communication to the Moorish Government, urging strongly the prompt payment of the balance of the purchase of the Cape Juby establishment money.

Sir A. Nicolson adds that the Vizier in his last communication, stated that two functionaries had been specially appointed to expedite the counting of the money, a transaction which should have been terminated by this time.

He thinks it possible that there may be difficulty in forwarding the coin to the coast, but considers that this hindrance, if it exists, should be removed by the approach of the Sultan and his troops to Morocco city, and by the pacification of the districts and the restoration of security to the trade routes which will, it is hoped, result therefrom.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 5.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 175 of the 20th ultimo, enclosing copy of the note which you had addressed to the Moorish Government on the previous day, presenting a claim for 23,271 pesetas 89 c. on account of the losses incurred by the shipper, owner and crew of the British Falucho "Virgen de los Angeles," through the plundering of that vessel by Riff Moors, and requesting reparation for the insult offered to the British flag.

I approve your communication to the Grand Vizier, as well as the further proceedings which you propose to take in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 6.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 179 of the 29th ultimo relative to the circular from the Grand Vizier of the 6th November last, announcing the intention of the Sultan to send an expedition into the Houz district, to punish indiscriminately non-protected and protected natives in that locality.

I approve the terms of the note, drawn up by the Foreign Diplomatic Body at Tangier, which it is proposed to address to the Moorish Government in reply.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 7.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 14, 1896.)

(No. 180.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 30, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 175 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that the Captain of the "Virgen de los Angeles" was formally confronted with the Riff prisoners at Tetuan, in the presence of Mr. Bewicke, British Vice-Consul at that place. The Captain at once identified one of the prisoners, and was morally certain of the identity of one other, though he was not so positive in the latter as in the former case. He knew one man well, having had business relations with him, and he stated that he had very little doubt in his mind as to the other having formed part of the band which attacked his vessel. I propose to instruct Mr. Bewicke to have these two men submitted to a searching examination by the Governor in his presence, in the hope that the inquiry may lead to tracing other individuals concerned in the act of piracy.

I have written a note to the Grand Vizier requesting that the two men should be kept in close confinement, and that they should not be released until this Legation has been consulted in the matter. I did not specify the exact term of their imprisonment, as I am told the Moorish authorities would not comprehend a formal request of this nature. I may mention that the Governor of Tetuan informed Mr. Bewicke that he need have no fear as to the men not being kept under close arrest, as he had received very stringent orders from the Sultan in regard to the Riffians, and that he was much indebted to the Captain of the British falucho for the information which he had supplied.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 8.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 14, 1896.)

(No. 181.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 31, 1895.

THE march of the Sultan towards Morocco city appears, from the latest information which I have received from Kaïd Maclean, to be proceeding satisfactorily, and many of the tribes are making their submission, and sending contingents to His Majesty's camp. The only tribe of any importance whose attitude remains dubious, is the Rahamna, a portion of whom arrived in the Royal camp and made the customary propitiatory sacrifices of cattle. The Sultan announced that he would only accept the submission of the tribe on condition that their Chief was delivered up, dead or alive; that they paid a large sum of money and 800 horses, and that, besides surrendering all the European arms in their possession, they should furnish a certain number of hostages. When these conditions were fulfilled, His Majesty stated that he would decide upon their future lot.

Kaïd Maclean believes that the Sultan intends to transfer the whole tribe to a locality at some distance from Morocco city.

In the meantime preparations are being made for surrounding the tribe, and it is stated that the Moorish Government would not be disappointed if the tribe had recourse to arms, as they are anxious to make a severe example of them. The Government

undoubtedly feel themselves strong enough to inflict a summary chastisement on these former rebels, and they place great reliance on the effects which the Gatling guns in the Sultan's army will produce on the malcontents.

Kaïd Maclean informs me, further, as an instance of the impression which the Sultan's army has produced on the tribes through whose district it is marching, that a large caravan of arms and ammunition passed safely and unmolested from Rabat, although it was accompanied by only a small escort. This would not have been possible during the former reign.

The Court is now distant about seven days' march from Morocco city, where, I am told from other sources, the population is awaiting with impatience the arrival of His Majesty, in the hope that the disturbed districts will calm down and trade routes be reopened.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 9.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 14.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January* 1, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 170 of the 2nd December, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean reporting on the results of his visit to the Sultan's camp in connection with the plunder of the stores of Messrs. Lamb Brothers during the recent disturbances at Saffi. Mr. MacLean, although he was unable to bring the case to a settlement, appears to have done his utmost to that end, and I trust your Lordship will concur in my having approved his action in the matter.

The communication from the Vizier, which was handed to Mr. Maclean for transmission to me, is not on the whole a very satisfactory document, as it raises certain points which would seem to indicate a desire on the part of the Moorish Government to shift a portion of the responsibility of the pillage of the stores on Messrs. Lamb Brothers, and endeavours to attribute the plunder of the property to certain lawless individuals, who were promptly repressed by the Government authorities. The termination of the communication, however, professes a desire to settle the case satisfactorily on the arrival of the Sultan in Morocco city, and I have informed the Vizier that I have taken note of this intention. I beg leave to inclose copies of the Vizier's communication to me and also of my reply.

No doubt there is a difficulty in obtaining a settlement of a somewhat considerable claim, while the camp is on the march and chiefly preoccupied with settling differences with surrounding tribes. Nevertheless, it is disappointing that a clearer acknowledgment of their liability was not made by the Moorish Government, and that no regret was expressed for the pillage and destruction of property belonging to British merchants by men under the command of a Government official.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Dar-el-Baida, December* 24, 1895.

I RECEIVED, on the 2nd instant, your Excellency's despatch of the 26th ultimo, with its inclosure for the Vizier, and on the 3rd I started for Rabat, arriving there on the 4th to find the Shereefian Court and army in the throes of preparation for marching the following day.

Immediately on my arrival my brother kindly undertook to see the Vizier, and to inform him that I was the bearer of a letter from your Excellency.

The Vizier sent me many expressions of welcome, and it was arranged that he should grant me an interview at 9·30 P.M. the same night. However, just before the time appointed, his chief attendant called upon me with further civil messages of welcome, and the intimation that the Vizier requested me to accompany the Sultan's camp as he had so little time at his disposal, he could not give me that night so long an interview

as he particularly wished to afford to me, and he had less hesitation in making the request as he was aware that, in accompanying the camp, I should be on my way back to Dar-el-Baida.

I considered it was necessary I should accede to the Vizier's courteous request.

On the second day's march in camp at Bou Zeneker, I saw the Vizier by appointment at 9·30 P.M. I handed him your Excellency's letter, and informed him of all the circumstances of the pillaging of Messrs. Lamb's stores in Saffi. The best part of the time of this interview was taken up in the exchange of compliments, and at its conclusion the Vizier promised me to consider the contents of your Excellency's letter, and to grant me another audience on the following day. He did not, however, commit himself on this occasion, to any promise of a settlement.

I saw the Vizier again at the same hour on the following evening at Fedallah. He then told me that the business I had come upon could not be settled without an inquiry, and he would not enter upon it until the Court arrived in Morocco city. I replied that the purpose of my visit was to present him with the full particulars of the occurrence, and to talk over the matter with him in order that a settlement might be promptly arranged.

After further conversation, in which his object was evidently to learn from me exactly how far I was going to press him, I told him that I had no authority to accompany the camp on the march, and that I would be grateful if he would give me a prompt reply, and allow me to return to my post. He asked me to go as far as the next camp, where there would be a halt for a few days. I replied that I was in his hands, but that I could only consent to continue with the camp on the distinct understanding that a settlement would be arrived at, as my instructions were that I was to be most friendly, but at the same time I was to explain that a prompt and full reparation must be given. He said again, "Please wait until the next camp," and I repeated that I would do so on the condition that it was with a view to a settlement.

At the next camp my brother brought me a message that Si Abdslam Tazzi was to talk over the business with me, and I arranged an interview with that gentleman. He told me that the Government had not received any news of the pillaging of the English stores in Saffi. I showed him the Kaïd of Saffi's letter to me saying he had reported the matter to the Sultan. I also showed him the Adool's document to prove the state in which they found the stores after the incident. I showed him the draft of my letter to Kaïd Aisa, dated the 11th November, to which no reply had been received, and I pointed out to him that a month had elapsed since the occurrence, which was more than ample time for the local officials to have reported the matter; and that, as a matter of fact, the news of the incident had arrived in England, and replies had been received. Si Abdslam argued the whole matter out with me, and in the end admitted, in spite of himself, that the request I made was a just one. He told me that he would see the Vizier again and let me know what was decided on. I reminded him that each postponement meant another march for me, and that unless something definite was arranged, I had no excuse for remaining with the camp, and that it was on condition that a settlement should be arrived at that I had remained so long.

The next day Si Abdslam told me that the Vizier was thinking over the matter, and on this same day Si Abdslam fell ill, with what was supposed to be cholera, and was sent away from camp to a neighbouring Kaïd's.

The Vizier sent me a message to wait as they were discussing the matter, and that Kaïd Aisa was expected in camp immediately. After several postponements I received a message from the Vizier, through my brother, that my business could not be entertained until the Court's arrival in Morocco city. I then sent up to ask him to see me so that I might bid him farewell.

At this last interview I intimated to him in the most friendly way my regret that not even a basis for a settlement had been arranged for. He said again it would be settled in Morocco city. I told him that it would have been a friendly act to have arranged the matter at once, but that I had done my very best, I had proved all my points, I had argued the matter out over and over again in the most friendly spirit, I had informed him that a prompt and full reparation must be given, I had intimated that your Excellency would be disappointed at no settlement, and that now it only remained for me to wish him a very cordial good-bye. He replied that I was one of themselves, and that the letter he had written to your Excellency would open your heart, even if it were made of stone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Cid Mohamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 28 *Jumad II*, 1313 (*December* 16, 1895).

I RECEIVED your letter, oh friend, through your Consul at Dar-el-Baida, about what you had heard of the occurrence in the stores of some of your merchants at the port named, and you requested a consultation with your Consul about the affair of the claim of your merchants for their losses of goods through the disobedience of those governed by the servant of our Lord, Kaïd Aisa Ben Omar El Abdi, and through the revolt. I am aware of all you state after bringing it to the knowledge of our Lord—whom God strengthen—and he understands it; God make him glorious! He has ordered me to reply to you, and explain what he has been told by the Governor of Saffi and the Governor of the revolted party about the occurrence and its reasons, and to point out what is necessary to carry out its arrangement in a proper way, and satisfy you. This is that the revolt of the disobedient parties referred to is well known, and it is unnecessary to enlarge upon it until they even went to lay hands upon the house of their Governor; and when he went against them with those who were loyal of his district with the intention of stopping it and punishing them, they took refuge in the Rabat of the town, as it was near, and from there came out to fight him. Then they returned to shelter behind its walls where they were in ambush during several battles, and they made it a trap for the loyal until they killed a number of the chief men. And among the places to which they went for shelter were the stores of the said merchants, as they were buying from those who were in the stores contraband cartridges and other things in the way of arms, with which they made themselves strong against their Governor and the loyal of his jurisdiction. And in the meantime stringent orders were issued by His Majesty to protect the stores of the merchants there. And when the harm caused to the town and those who came to it continued, and the Governor's men advanced towards them and defeated them, and what happened took place, some of the rebels laying hands on the said stores, to which the rebels were in the habit of going while they were in hiding. And at once when the Governor heard of this he immediately ordered them to stop and the return at once of all that was found on anybody, and to be witnessed by a notary, and he wished to return it to the agent of the Company of the said stores; but he would not take it, and it is still ready and safeguarded. Under all circumstances there will be no turning away from a careful inquiry and examination into the amount of what is lost from the said stores, and verifying it until it is shown; and the arrangement will be undertaken in a proper manner with the help of God. But at this moment in which your Consul has come it is impossible.

And our conviction of your intelligence and sound discernment, and of every just and intelligent person, will allow the impossibility of attending to the arrangement of it just now, as the Government—God exalt it—is about to arrange that which is well known as of general interest to the subjects and foreign merchants by setting things in order.

And this is now the most important of all important matters, as by it the end of the anxieties will be reached.

And his Shereefian Majesty will enter Morocco city in a few days with God's help, and he has the intention, on his safe entry, to attend seriously and carefully to the inquiry into all the matters pending about the said port. And that the first care before everything will be the attending to the arrangement of the affair of these stores in the best possible manner of good-will and justice, which will increase the proved good relations between us, and will be a testimony to the continuance of the established friendship and affection and justice of the rights between the two exalted countries.

I have written this to you, oh, friend, by the instructions of His Majesty—God exalt him—to make your mind easy, and that you may have the certainty that action will follow the words, by the help of God.

May you remain, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

Inclosure 3 in No. 9.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Mahomed-ben-Moussa.

Tangier. January 1, 1896.

(After compliments.)

I HAVE received the letter which your Excellency addressed to me on the 16th December, 1895 (28 Jumad II, 1313), relative to the claim of Messrs. Lamb Brothers to compensation on account of the pillage of their stores at Saffi by the troops under the command of Kaïd Aisa Ben Omar El Abdi; and you say, oh friend, that the rebels went for concealment to the stores of the said merchants, as they were buying, from those in the stores, contraband cartridges and other things in the way of arms, with which they made themselves strong against their Governor; and that His Majesty—whom God protect—had issued stringent orders to protect the stores of the said merchants, but that the rabble plundered the said stores; and that Kaïd Aisa, when he heard of this, ordered them to stop; and that all that could be collected from the plundered property was held in readiness to be returned to Messrs. Lamb Brothers. You further say, oh friend, that when His Majesty—whom God guard—enters Morocco city his first care will be to arrange about the matter of these stores, and in the best manner of good-will and justice, and that my mind may be easy, for action will follow the words.

I have understood all this, oh friend, and I have taken note of the intention of the Moorish Government to settle the matter as soon as the Sultan—whom God protect—enters Morocco city, and I will so inform my Government. At the same time I must point out that according to information in which I place confidence, it was the men under Kaïd Aisa who plundered the stores, and much damage was done to the property of innocent British subjects, the subjects of a friendly Power. This is a fact, which increases the gravity of the regrettable occurrence. I am sure, moreover, that Messrs. Lamb Brothers, who are a highly respectable firm, and who live in amity and good-will with the Moorish authorities, never sold cartridges or arms to the rebels. This allegation should be dismissed from your mind. Your Excellency has full details as to what was robbed and what damage was done, information confirmed by notaries and carefully noted down. If any property has been recovered, let it at once be returned to Messrs. Lamb Brothers, and they will make allowance for the same in their claim; but I had not heard, till your Excellency told me so, that any property had been offered to be returned.

The claim which I wish to have paid amounts to 3,500*l.*, and this is a just claim, oh friend; it is necessary that such a claim be promptly settled, for it is to be regretted that harmless merchants should suffer heavy losses through no fault of their own and at the hands of men under the command of a Government official; you will see this, and will, I doubt not, enable me to tell my Government that prompt reparation and compensation have been made. It is possible that in the turmoil of strife and rebellion grievous events occur, which the Government and its authorities are pained to see, and would willingly avoid, but I do not doubt your good-will and justice, oh friend. And I am sure that you will show both in the light of day, and confirmed by acts, so that my mind, and the minds of my merchants, may be at ease and at peace.

I am anxious to have this matter settled quickly and satisfactorily. And I know that you, oh friend, will do so; and may you continue in health and prosperity.

Peace.

No. 10.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 14.)

Tangier, January 2, 1896.

(No. 3.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two articles which have been published in the "Réveil du Maroc" regarding the measures which the French authorities are taking for the protection of the southern frontier of Algeria. I do not know if these articles have been written originally for the above-named journal, or whether they are transcribed from some other French paper, but, in any case, I thought they might be of interest to your Lordship.

The localities of the two forts called respectively MacMahon and Miribel are to be found on the French Staff Map of 1889 (Sheet V), but I have been unable to place the third fort which has been constructed to the south-east of El Golia.

Your Lordship will observe that in the second article the writer considers that, if the policy of pushing forward advanced forts is continued, In-Salah, Gourara, and Tuat will before long fall into French hands naturally and peacefully.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Extract from "Le Réveil du Maroc" of December 27, 1895.

COMMENT SE FAIT UNE FRONTIÈRE.—D'Alger à El-Goléa un peu plus de 900 kilom: près de 600 de Philippeville à Ouargla. La construction de trois forts disposés en éventail a plus de 160 kilom. en avant d'El-Goléa, et d'un quatrième fort au delà de Ouargla, se présente comme la réalisation d'un véritable programme de notre politique Algérienne. Et, déjà, l'opinion publique est saisie par la publication de documents partiels, relatifs à la construction de tel ou tel de ces forts.

Le moment paraît donc venu d'exposer l'ensemble des raisons politiques qui ont amené la mise en œuvre de ce plan de pénétration, méthodique et pacifique, dans l'Extrême-Sud Algérien.

Il ne s'agit ici, ni de transaharien, ni de conquête du Soudan, ni d'avenir commercial avec des pays vides, ni non plus de quelque expédition dans la direction du Tchad.

Le programme se résume en deux points essentiels: se faire vers le sud une frontière sérieuse et sûre, et affirmer par là que la France n'a pas fait acte de puérilité en prenant part à la grande Convention Internationale de 1890, qui détermina sa zone d'influence dans le nord-ouest Africain, en contresignant les décisions qui précisaient les droits respectifs des nations Européennes qui avaient pris pied sur le continent noir.

Les seuls postes avancés d'El-Goléa et de Ouargla ne pouvaient assurer la sécurité sur un front sud de plus de 1,300 kilom. de développement, du Maroc au sud Tunisien.

On entend parfois dire que le désert est une frontière et qu'il est superflu de pénétrer dans un pays déshérité, dans lequel tout manque, jusqu'à l'eau pour abreuver les hommes et les bêtes.

Il faut, pour dire de pareilles choses, n'avoir jamais eu sous les yeux une carte du Hinterland de nos possessions Algériennes.

Derrière l'immense chaîne de l'Atlas, jetée sur le littoral, de l'océan au Cap-Bon, sur une profondeur variant de 200 à 500 kilom., règnent les contrées désertiques formant une zone non moins profonde. S'il n'y avait rien au delà de cette dernière zone, on pourrait dire qu'un pareil matelas de sables suffirait pour protéger l'Algérie. Mais il n'en est pas ainsi.

Un prodigieux Oued, ou plutôt une vallée immense—au nord, Oued-Messaoura; au sud, Oued-Messaoud—va se perdre dans la "sebkra" (lac salé) du Tanezrouf, après un parcours de près de 500 kilom., orienté du nord-ouest au sud-est, venant du Maroc. Sa rive gauche est parsemée d'oasis dont l'ensemble s'appelle le Touai.

Au 27e degré de latitude, le cours du Messaoud est rencontré perpendiculairement par une autre ligne d'oasis, le Tidikelt, se terminant vers l'est à In-Salah. Cette nouvelle ligne de régions plus ou moins fertiles se prolonge sur plus de 200 kilom., pour atteindre le méridien d'Alger.

Ces séries d'oasis enveloppent nos possessions au sud, après les avoir prises en écharpe obliquement du côté de l'ouest. Ligne ininterrompue, offrant des voyages faciles sur plus de 700 kilom., se rattachant au Maroc, porte ouverte à toutes les contrebandes d'armes et de munitions. C'est dire que cette ligne interminable est une ligne de ravitaillement aisée pour les dissidents, qui, comme Bou-Amema (l'homme à la chèvre de 1881), ont toujours quelque formule de guerre sainte en réserve dans le capuchon de leur burnous.

En avant-garde de cette ligne tournante, peuplée de 200,000 habitants, menace permanente, point de départ des razzias, des pillards qui s'en vont razzier des centaines de chameaux et tuer de nos gens jusque près de Ouargla, la nature, quelquefois stratégique, a placé, plus près de nous, la région du Gourara, peuplée de 80,000 Ksouriens.

Que présentions-nous à cette ligne formidable, perpétuelle menace pour nos possessions?

Deux postes avancés, perdus dans l'espace sur un front de plus de 1,300 kilom.; car Ghardaïa est trop en arrière pour pouvoir compter.

Insuffisante également, notre action sur le Gourara, sur le Touat, et sur In-Salah dans de pareilles conditions. En effet, les Touaregs et les grands écumeurs du désert, sans cesse appuyés sur cette immense ligne d'oasis, n'ont que le choix pour les points de départ de leurs razzias, sachant bien que les 500 à 600 kilom. de sables qui les séparaient d'El-Goléa assuraient l'impunité à leurs incursions criminelles sur nos territoires.

Lancer une colonne d'un millier d'hommes à travers 500 kilom. d'un pays aride, sans ressources d'aucune sorte, eût été, fût-ce pour accomplir un acte de rigoureuse justice, une folie, étant un terrible sacrifice d'hommes et un pénible sacrifice d'argent comme entrée de jeu.

Au lieu de cela, on vient de jeter, très en avant de nos deux postes isolés d'hier, quatre postes nouveaux, dans lesquels nos colonnes, s'il y avait lieu, trouveraient l'eau, le ravitaillement, le soin de leurs malades et de leurs blessés, et un point d'appui sûr.

Au sud-ouest d'El-Goléa, dans la direction du Gourara, le Fort MacMahon a été construit, en 1894, tenant le Gourara et le Touat septentrional en échec.

Au sud-est d'El-Goléa, le Fort Hassi-Inifel a été construit au cours de l'avant-dernier hiver, sans autre utilité que de voir la route de Rhadamès.

En 1894 le Fort Miribel a été construit droit au sud d'El-Goléa, dans la direction d'In-Salah, qu'il tient en respect.

A l'est de ces forts, la région des grandes dunes, l'Erg, à peu près impraticable faute d'eau sur de très longs parcours, est une défense suffisante. Cependant, pour faire face aux malintentionnés qui se faufileraient dans ses "gassis" (vallées souvent couvertes de végétation et pourvues d'eau), le fort Lallemand a été construit à 150 kilom. au sud de Touggourt, coupant la route de Ouargla à Rhadamès.

Il y a donc aujourd'hui, en éventail devant El-Goléa, trois forts: MacMahon au sud-ouest, Miribel au sud, et Hassi-Inifel au sud-est, offrant un front de protection respectable d'environ 350 kilom., appuyé vers l'est aux massifs de l'Erg, à peu près infranchissable. L'Erg compris, du Fort MacMahon au fort Lallemand, la protection s'étend maintenant, déjà moralement efficace, sur 700 kilom., prolongée encore jusqu'à la Tripolitaine par une autre portion infranchissable du grand Erg.

Les nouveaux forts présentent cet avantage inappréciable de barrer les meilleures pistes aux fameux coupeurs de routes dont les regards de convoitise sont sans cesse dirigés sur nos belles oasis Françaises.

Par la mise en avant de ces postes nouveaux, l'œuvre de constitution de la frontière sud de l'Algérie prend figure, l'agression des pillards du sud devenant très difficile, sinon impossible, en arrière d'eux. Comment pourrait-il seulement venir à l'idée de ces bandes de coureurs du désert de s'en prendre à des forts solides, de 40 mètres de côté, munis d'artillerie, pourvus d'eau, de nourriture, et de munitions, défendus par des officiers et des soldats à toute épreuve?

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Extract from "Le Réveil du Maroc" of December 31, 1895.

COMMENT SE FAIT UNE FRONTIÈRE (SUITE).—Ce plan de pénétration méthodique a été une conception personnelle de Jules Cambon, Gouverneur-Général. Il sera la véritable signature de son passage au Gouvernement de l'Algérie.

Militaire dans toutes ses parties et dans toutes ses apparences, exclusivement exécutée par les militaires, avec une vaillance, un entrain, un dévouement, et une intelligence au-dessus de tous éloges, cette œuvre patriotique n'en est pas moins une œuvre pacifique par excellence, étant une magnifique application du "Si vis pacem para bellum."

Application topique avec des Arabes qui ne croient qu'à la force, avec des fatalistes toujours inclinés devant le fait accompli. Auprès d'eux, la seule manifestation d'une irrésistible puissance militaire suffit pour amener la soumission à "ce qui était écrit."

Faisons une hypothèse. Au-devant du Fort Miribel, un autre fort est construit à très petite distance d'In-Salah. Devant le Fort MacMahon, un fort nouveau s'élève aux portes des oasis du Gourara. De ces forts, possibilité de lancer des colonnes reposées et bien pourvues dans les oasis d'In-Salah et du Touat, où rien ne leur manquerait. Que feraient les Ksouriens sédentaires de ses oasis? La guerre? Jamais de la vie.

Ils se soumettraient aux décrets d'Allah et ne demanderaient pas mieux que de nouer

avec nous de pacifiques relations . . . . surtout si nous savions nous contenter de protéger, sans chercher à conquérir, à administrer, et à assimiler effectivement leurs immenses territoires.

Je vais plus loin. Qui sait si, avant peu, ces braves gens, pacifiques parce que sédentaires, ne seraient pas les premiers à nous demander à leur venir en aide contre les Touaregs et autres pillards professionnels, dont leurs Ksours ont si souvent à pâtir?

Telle est l'orientation donnée a la politique dans l'extrême-sud depuis l'arrivée de M. Jules Cambon au Gouvernement Général. Plus d'expéditions hasardées, point de sacrifices d'hommes douloureux, point non plus de sacrifices d'argent illimités et disproportionnés.

Sans tirer un coup de fusil, sans perdre un homme, des colonnes se sont avancées vers les points choisis. Autour de puits d'eau excellente les forts se sont élevés en une seule campagne d'hiver. Voici donc les pièces placées comme il convient sur l'immense échiquier du Sahara. Autour de ces forts d'autres puits sont creusés ou appropriés et, comme au Kreider et en bien d'autres endroits, l'on verra, au bout de peu d'années, verdir quelques jardins en plein désert.

Si toutes choses se continuent avec la sûreté et la méthode montrées dans ce mouvement initial, l'on peut prédire qu'In-Salah, le Gourara, et le Touat tomberont en nos mains avant qu'il soit longtemps, tout naturellement, ainsi que des fruits mûrs.

Et qui donc pourrait faire obstacle à ce résultat, tout à la fois fatal et pacifique? Les gens du Gourara ou du Touat, peut-être? Cela serait assurément possible s'ils se trouvaient aux prises avec des colonnes épuisées, exténuées après la traversée du désert, mal appuyées, mal rattachées à des bases d'opération trop éloignées. Cela devient impossible pour eux en présence de forts bien établis à leur portée, bien pourvus, dont, en gens jaloux de leur propre quiétude, les bons Ksouriens auraient bien vite apprécié l'efficacité pour la protection de leurs propres intérêts.

En résumé, si l'abord de Touat par le côté de Figuig avait l'avantage premier de couper le Touat du Maroc, il avait aussi ce grand inconvénient, la poudre venant à parler, d'avoir à repousser les Ksouriens, d'oasis en oasis, sur un parcours interminable, se chiffrant par près de 700 kilom., à travers le Touat et le Tidikelt, et de se trouver, finalement, à une distance invraisemblable de la base d'opération, en admettant cette base à Figuig même. De là, l'opération devient hasardeuse; et une colonne, si forte qu'elle puisse être éprouvée par les occupations nécessaires pour conserver sa ligne de rattachement, pourrait arriver à se fondre et à disparaître avant de parvenir à In-Salah.

Combien préférable cette prise de position de flanc contre une menace de flanc perpétuelle, permettant, le cas échéant, de couper par des colonnes bien rattachées, le Tidikelt et le Touat en tronçons impuissants. Mais je le redis avec conviction, il ne sera pas nécessaire d'en arriver aux moyens violents, si dans un temps donné, nous montrons, derrière de bonnes murailles, les canons de nos artilleurs et les baïonnettes de nos troupes à proximité du Touat et du Tidikelt.

Leur présence suffira.

En peu de lignes je rappellerai les campagnes d'hiver, si bien réussies, au cours desquelles les trois derniers forts ont été construits.

Le 17 Janvier, 1894, une colonne, composée de 7 officiers, 2 médecins, 1 interprète, et 196 hommes, quittait Touggourth avec les chameaux portant les tonnelets d'eau, les ustensiles et madriers nécessaires pour la construction. Un certain nombre d'ouvriers indigènes et de cavaliers montés sur des chevaux accompagnaient la colonne, et formaient un ensemble de convoi très pittoresque.

La colonne était commandée par le Capitaine Pujat, le grand bâtisseur du Sahara, celui auquel on doit les constructions militaires d'El-Oued.

L'objectif de la colonne était d'abord de faire des recherches d'eau et des créations de puits entre Touggourth et Bel-Heïran, aux points d'étapes non pourvus ou insuffisamment pourvus. Cette première partie du programme était remplie le 26 Janvier, jour de l'arrivée de la colonne sur l'emplacement de Bel-Heïram.

Il s'agissait ensuite de s'établir là, et de pousser aussi loin que possible, à partir de ce moment, et en quatre-vingts jours, la construction d'un fort qui devait prendre le nom du Général Lallemand, décédé au cours de l'année 1894. Le 18 Avril au soir, le programme étant rempli, le Commandant de la colonne ordonna la levée du camp pour le 19 et le départ pour le 20, les outils ayant été emmagasinés, la cour ayant été déblayée, les gardiens ayant été installés et ayant reçu leurs consignes.

Les jours qui suivirent l'arrivée à Bel-Heïram furent consacrés à l'apport des matériaux

et au forage des puits devant donner l'eau suffisante pour les hommes, pour les bêtes, et pour les constructions.

Deux puits étaient en état le 5 Février, mais en dehors de l'enceinte du fort. Le 7 Mars, un troisième puits, donnant de abondance une eau excellente et profond de 24 mètres, était terminé au centre du fort.

On avait eu le bonheur de trouver, à 7 kilom., une carrière assez belle pour fournir des pierres de taille; mais le tailleur de pierre et les outils manquaient. Un soldat du train, meunier de sa profession, et un chasseur du 5e Bataillon d'Afrique, charpentier de son état, furent improvisés tailleurs de pierre. Plus tard, lors de l'arrivée de la Mission du télégraphe optique, le Capitaine Pierre, qui la commandait, dut mettre à la disposition du Capitaine Pujat un de ses télégraphistes, excellent tailleur de pierre, quelque peu artiste même, qui sut donner un certain caractère à la porte d'entrée du fort.

Bref, on fit de tout, grâce au bon vouloir et à l'entrain de nos braves soldats. On tailla les pierres, on improvisa des chèvres pour les mettre en place, on fora des puits que l'on garnit de poulies, de margelles, et de *delou;* on bâtit des fours à pain, on fit des briques, on fit de plâtre; je ne sais pas ce que ne fit pas cette petite troupe de travailleurs en quatre-vingts jours.

Bref, un fort était élevé, bien clos, très défendable déjà, achevé dans son gros œuvre; et la colonne rentra à Touggourth à l'heure dite, avec la conscience d'un grand et patriotique devoir accompli.

Pendant toute l'opération, un tiers de l'effectif était affecté à la garde du territoire occupé, assurant à tour de rôle la sécurité commune, appuyé par les cavaliers et les méharistes qui éclairaient la position au loin. Le travail s'acheva ainsi sans incidents.

Pour le Fort du Sud, aujourd'hui Fort Miribel, le Gouverneur-Général avait chargé M. Fernand Foureau, le vaillant explorateur du pays du Chambar et des Touaregs, de se détourner de son itinéraire et de reconnaître la piste, inexplorée en grande partie, d'El-Goléa à In-Salah. M. Foureau releva cette piste jusqu'en vue des grandes oasis de la région de Tidikelt; et l'on résolut d'établir un fort, droit au sud, à un endroit appelé Hassi-Chebbaba. L'objectif était analogue à celui de la construction du Fort Lallemand.

La colonne du Capitaine du Génie Digne, qui devait construire le fort qui allait prendre le nom de Miribel, quittait El-Goléa le 2 Janvier, 1894, arrivait à destination en six jours de marche assez pénible. Au tiers du chemin, la route bifurque, la branche de l'est se dirigeant vers le Fort Hassi Inifel.

La colonne la plus importante a été sans contredit celle qui a été bâtir le Fort MacMahon au Hassi-et-Homeur, à 167 kilom. au sud-ouest d'El-Goléa. Elle se composait de 10 officiers, 399 sous-officiers et soldats, de 25 chevaux, 16 mulets, et 56 méharas; sans compter un très grand nombre de chameaux de bât.

La marche en huit étapes faites en pays souvent inconnus, à travers de nombreuses dunes, a été des plus pénibles. Dans les passages difficiles la colonne s'allongeait démésurément jusqu'à occuper une longueur de plus de 3 kilom., pour reprendre sa formation normale dans les plaines.

Partie d'El-Goléa le 26 Novembre, elle atteignait aussitôt à l'œuvre, non sans avoir reçu la visite de six indigènes, se disant envoyés par les Caïds d'El-Kaf et de Tiberkamin, pour protester, disaient-ils, contre l'occupation du puits par les Français. Le Capitaine Alman, Commandant de la colonne, ne tint naturellement aucun compte de ces protestations plus ou moins authentiques, et le fort fut construit.

L'on ne saurait trop louer le courage et l'ingéniosité développés dans ces missions pénibles, toutes arrivées à bien, tant par les officiers que par les soldats; et l'on peut dire qu'ils ont bien mérité de la France. Il semblerait même juste que pour des services si exceptionnels et si exceptionnellement utiles au pays, les militaires qui font partie d'expéditions semblables fussent assimilés à ceux qui obtiennent la médaille coloniale.

No. 11.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 14.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)

Tangier, January 7, 1896.

My Lord,

THE Spanish Minister informed me to-day that he intended to leave for Madrid next week, as he had received a telegram from the Duke of Tetuan requesting him to proceed

to that capital. M. de Ojéda said that his journey to Madrid was connected with the question of his visit to the Moorish Court on which his Chief desired to consult with him. He could tell me privately that he had laid before his Government various considerations, which might render desirable a postponement of the presentation of his credentials to the Sultan. He had explained to his Government that he would have to treat seriously with the Moorish Government in respect to the payment of the Melilla indemnity, and to the delimitation of the neutral zone. It would, he thought, be necessary to use very strong language, and even to threaten some ulterior measures, if the Moorish Government, as would probably be the case, showed a disinclination to promptly fulfil their Treaty obligations in regard to the neutral zone. In his opinion it might be found necessary to warn the Moorish Government that Spain might have to undertake herself the delimitation of the neutral zone, and the transfer of those who at present inhabited it to places outside of the neutral limits. This would necessitate a considerable increase of the Melilla garrison; and he did not know if his Government, with the Cuban difficulty on their hands, would be disposed to go the lengths to which circumstances might lead them. He had stated these difficulties frankly to his Government, as he felt it would be impossible for him to go to the Moorish Court without some decided instructions on this point. Personally he was of opinion that if his Government were indisposed at the present moment to prepare for possible eventualities, that it would be wiser to postpone his visit to the Moorish Court; and he was glad that an opportunity was now offered to him of discussing the matter personally with the Duke of Tetuan.

In reply to an inquiry from me, M. de Ojéda said that he doubted if the Moorish Government were capable of carrying out by themselves the evacuation of the neutral zone; and, in any case, they would hesitate to make any attempt in that direction until extremely strong pressure had been employed.

M. de Ojéda begged me to consider what he had told me as strictly confidential, as he did not wish it to be known that he had spoken to me on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 12.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 14.)

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 14, 1896.

CAPE JUBY: The Vizier addressed me a letter on the 4th instant, saying that the Sultan should reach Morocco city shortly after the date of his communication, and that on His Majesty's arrival there, he promised to send the indemnity money at once.

The cause of the delay has been, I believe, owing to insecurity for sending money through the revolted districts, where peace has now been restored.

No. 13.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 14, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has received a letter from the Grand Vizier, dated the 4th instant, stating that the Sultan was expected to arrive at Morocco city within a few days from that date, and that immediately after his arrival steps would be taken to forward the balance of the Cape Juby purchase-money.

Sir A. Nicolson adds that he believes that the delay has been occasioned by the disturbed state of the districts through which the money would have to be sent, but that this difficulty has now been removed by the pacification of the tribes in those districts.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 14.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 17, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1 of the 2nd instant reporting the steps taken by you with a view to obtain a settlement of the claim of Messrs. Lamb Brothers against the Moorish Government for the pillage of their stores during the recent disturbances at Saffi.

I concur in your approval of Mr. Consul Maclean's action in the matter, and I approve the reply which you returned to the Vizier's communication of the 16th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 15.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 23, 1896.

ALHUCEMAS piracy: My despatch No. 175 of the 20th December.

An order on the Tangier Custom-house for full payment of this claim in three months from this date has reached me from the Grand Vizier.

Is this arrangement acceptable to your Lordship?

I think this manner of settlement is fairly expeditious and satisfactory, judging from the usual course followed by the Moorish Government in these cases.

No. 16.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 14, 1896.

THE Sultan, if the programme of the itinerary is adhered to, should reach Morocco city either to-morrow or next day. The difficulties with the principal tribe, the Rahamna, have been arranged in the customary manner, by the tribe making a large payment either in cash or kind, furnishing numerous horses and arms, and delivering up many hostages or prisoners. The number of prisoners in camp now amounts to 700, and they are so numerous that the supply of chains in camp was found to be insufficient, and a fresh consignment had to be obtained from Morocco city. The Vizier contemplates punishing some of the more prominent malcontents, although they have made their submission and fulfilled the conditions which were imposed. Kaïd Maclean has very properly advised the Vizier to keep faith with the men, as, if they found that treachery was practised on them, they would naturally lose all confidence in any future engagements which the Government might undertake towards them. It is fortunate, perhaps, that the difficulty has been arranged in a comparatively pacific manner, as, had hostilities commenced, the Government troops might not have had so easy a victory as was anticipated. The officer who was sent with a considerable force to operate on the flank of the tribe reported, on arriving at his position, that he had discovered that the ammunition with which he had been supplied consisted merely of blank cartridges.

The camp of the Sultan is an exceedingly large one, there being some 40,000 in it, and the expense and difficulty of feeding so numerous a body must be extremely exhausting to the districts through which the army passes. Cholera, too, has made its appearance, but hitherto not to any serious extent.

The march of the Sultan from Fez to Morocco city may be considered as successful, and as having established his authority, in any case for the time, in districts which were formerly disturbed and uncertain in their allegiance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 17.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 14, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 174 of the 19th December, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier promising payment of the Cape Juby indemnity immediately on the arrival of the Court at Morocco city. From the latest information which I have received from the Royal camp, the Sultan should reach his capital in a day or two from now. The money should be ready for transmission, as the operation of counting it commenced some time ago. I believe that the delay in forwarding the money is largely due to the insecurity of the roads, and I am informed that the Government themselves met their pressing needs by a consignment from Tangier, rather than venture to procure cash from the Treasury chests at Morocco city. I trust that every precaution will be taken for the safe conveyance of the indemnity to the sea-coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson

(Translation.) 17 *Rajab*, 1313 (*January* 4, 1896).

I HAVE received your reply, O friend, to my communication about the balance of the money owing to Her Majesty's Government on account of Cape Juby, that you had informed your Government of it, and they consider it slow in fulfilling the promise by the actual receipt of the money, or hearing of its having left Morocco city, and your Government and the Company are in hourly expectation, and request attention to its early payment, for the reasons you pointed out. We are aware of this after bringing it to the knowledge of our Lord (God protect him), and he has ordered me to hasten a reply that he and his army will soon reach Morocco city, within a few days of this date, and that immediately he enters the said balance will be sent to you at once, with God's help, without any delay, or asking for any respite, so that you may, O kind friend, be contented in your mind, and you must know that this reply is equivalent to the receipt of the said money itself, please God.

Finished.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 18.

Mr. Ashplant to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

Rose Villa, Mervan Road, Brixton, London,
My Lord, *January* 23, 1896.

HAVING acquired an interest in a concession in North-west Africa, situated to the south of Morocco, between the River Nun and Cape Bojador, granted by the hereditary Sheikhs and their tribes occupying this territory to Ameen Talhook, a well-known man from Beyrout, in the district of Mount Lebanon, granting certain trading and mineral rights, I, with other merchants in London, purpose trading in this country and also working the mineral and nitrates to be found there, and it having come to my knowledge that certain trading rights at Cape Juby, covering rather less than 2 square miles of territory granted by Mahommed Beyrouk to a trading Company in 1879, has been purchased by the Sultan of Morocco, I crave from your Lordship information on the following points:—

1. Is Cape Juby a free port?
2. Have the hereditary native Sheikhs power to grant concessions over their territory?
3. Does the Sultan of Morocco claim suzerainty over this coast, and, if so,

whether below Cape Juby, and whether he could prevent us trading or working the mines?

As we consider this a very good opportunity for British enterprise, and it will entail the laying out of a large sum of money, your Lordship will pardon my lengthy communication.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) F. DAVIDGE ASHPLANT.

No. 19.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January* 24, 1896.

PILLAGE of the "Virgen de los Angeles."

You may accept settlement as proposed in your telegram No. 2 of the 23rd instant.

No. 20.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Foreign Office, January 24, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 20th ultimo in regard to the pillage of the British falucho "Virgen de los Angeles" by Riff Moors, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has reported by telegraph that the Vizier has sent him an order on the Custom-house at that port for payment of the claim in full.

Sir A. Nicolson states that the order is payable in three months from the present time, and inquires whether Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to accept this arrangement.

Lord Salisbury considers that the mode of settlement thus proposed is, having regard to Moorish methods, fairly prompt and satisfactory, and he has, therefore, instructed Sir A. Nicolson by telegraph to accept it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 21.

The Marquess of Dufferin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 25.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Paris, January* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Journal des Débats," laying stress upon French claims to the Tuat region in opposition to those set up by Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Extract from the "Débats" of January 24, 1896.

L'ATTENTION publique se trouve appelée à nouveau sur un sujet qui intéresse directement la sûreté de notre domination dans le Sud Algérien. Il vient, en effet, de se répandre, au sujet de troubles qui se seraient produits dans cette région, certains bruits, d'ailleurs exagérés, mais qui confirment en partie les renseignements de nos correspondances du Sahara. On sait, d'autre part, qu'une députation du groupe colonial de la Chambre des Députés a été reçue récemment par M. Berthelot, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, et

que le Président de ce groupe, au cours de l'entretien, a demandé où en était le règlement de la question dite du Sud Oranais et des oasis de l'Extrême Sud, c'est-à-dire du Touat.

Ce n'est pas sans une certaine surprise que nous avons vu le groupe colonial de notre Parlement s'adresser au Chef du Département des Affaires Étrangères pour traiter d'une affaire que tous les membres des Cabinets précédents s'étaient attachés, avec beaucoup de raison, à ne considérer que comme une simple mesure de police intérieure. Le règlement de la question ne regarde que le Gouvernment-Général de l'Algérie, qui doit s'entendre avec l'Administration du Ministère de la Guerre sur les moyens à employer. Il faut donc regretter que l'on ait paru rompre avec cette tradition par une démarche dont l'utilité nous semble au moins contestable. Aussi paraît-il opportun de fixer nettement l'état de la question.

Ce n'est pas d'hier que ces oasis du Touat préoccupent le Gouvernement-Général de l'Algérie. En effet, les Souverains du Maroc, poussés par leur fanatisme et par certaines influences extérieures, n'ont cessé de poursuivre le développement de leur influence en ces régions lointaines. Leur politique a été aussi avisée que persévérante, et l'étude des moyens dont ils se sont servis nous serait singulièrement suggestive. Tandis que notre Légation de Tanger ne cessait pas de signifier au Gouvernement Marocain qu'elle ne lui reconnaissait, à aucun titre, aucun droit sur ces régions, de fâcheuses rivalités survenues entre les trois divisions militaires qui se partagent notre territoire Algérien nous condamnaient à une inertie regrettable, et la Cour de Fez en profitait pour donner une ampleur de plus en plus grande à ses intrigues. C'est ainsi que nous avons vu se produire, il y a trois ans, l'expédition du Sultan Moulaï-el-Hassan au Tafilalet, et que, tout dernièrement un Pacha Marocain s'est installé à Timmimoun, c'est-à-dire dans l'oasis la plus rapprochee de notre fort de MacMahon. Pendant ce temps, il est vrai, le Gouvernement-Général de l'Algérie ne demeurait pas inactif. Il employait au mieux les moyens dont il peut disposer, sans s'adresser à l'Administration du Ministère de la Guerre. Pour préparer l'avenir, pour développer notre influence, il faisait, en effet, appel aux grandes familles indigènes, à celle des Oulad-sidi-Cheikh, et s'acquérait le concours des Chérifs de Ouâzzan; mais toute cette politique très habile ne devait être, dans la pensée de ceux qui la pratiquaient, que le prélude d'une action finale et décisive, et cette action ne s'est pas produite encore.

Il y a deux ans on organisa une colonne qui pénétra fort avant dans le sud de la province d'Alger; puis brusquement, sous l'empire de considérations multiples, en rappela les troupes. L'effet moral fut déplorable, et les commentaires les moins obligeants se répandirent au loin. Plus récemment on avait à nouveau, cette fois-ci dans le sud de la province Oranaise, réuni les éléments d'une action qui, suivant la route reconnue l'été dernier par quelques-uns de nos officiers, aurait atteint la région du Gourara où nos sujets Algériens possèdent de grandes propriétés et une influence considérable. On assurait ainsi le succès de l'opération et l'étendue des efforts était relativement fort modeste. Mais ce n'est un mystère pour personne, puisque la nouvelle s'en est propagée parmi les indigènes avec une extrême rapidité, que l'exécution de ce projet est encore différée et remise à une date indéterminée. On se demandera ce que penseront de ce nouvel atermoiment ceux des indigènes qui ont soudé leur cause à la nôtre. Les Arabes, ignorants des dessous des conditions politiques qui nous régissent, s'accommoderont mal de ces retards et de ces tergiversations; ils y verront un signe de la débilité de notre Gouvernement et nous nous réserverons comme à plaisir de redoutables difficultés d'avenir.

Il est très fâcheux qu'un pareil état de choses semble de tradition dans nos entreprises. Si un grand effort militaire à diriger vers les régions sahariennes effraye notre Ministre de la Guerre par la disproportion entre les sacrifices à engager et le résultat à atteindre, on n'a ni raison valable, ni prétexte plausible à invoquer pour refuser de mettre la main, par des moyens très avantageux et très simples, sur cette contrée dont l'importance stratégique et politique est hors de pair. Il suffit de se servir des éléments indigènes qui déjà depuis plusieurs années s'offrent à nous et que précisément l'Administration de la Guerre avait rejetés, estimant que le succès dépendait de l'envoi de troupes Françaises. Rien n'empêcherait plus alors l'exécution immédiate et rapide d'un plan d'occupation des oasis, sous la forme d'une sorte de royaume Arabe, la seule compatible, au surplus, avec les exigences de la situation dans ces contrées lointaines et inhospitalières.

De toute façon, il est temps de sortir d'une inaction qui s'est beaucoup trop prolongée, et qui a gravement lésé nos intérêts matériels en même temps que notre prestige moral, aux yeux des Arabes, en éprouvait une profonde atteinte.

No. 22.

Mr. Ashplant to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 28.)

Rose Villa, Mervan Road, Brixton, London, January 27, 1896.

My Lord,

IN reference to my communication as to concessions North-west African coast between River Nun and Cape Bojador, I omitted to mention that the concessions were given in the year 1893.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) F. DAVIDGE ASHPLANT.

No. 23.

Foreign Office to Mr. Ashplant.

Foreign Office, January 28, 1896.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 23rd and 27th instant, intimating that you had acquired an interest in a concession in North-west Africa, situated between the River Nun and Cape Bojador, and making inquiries in regard to the political and commercial position of affairs in those regions.

In reply, I am to state that Her Majesty's Government have recognized all the territory between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador and all the lands behind it as belonging to Morocco, and that, consequently, no concession within those limits would be valid without the Sultan's approval.

With regard to Cape Juby, on the occasion of its transfer to the Sultan of Morocco last year, an arrangement was come to between Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier and the Moorish Government that the port of Cape Juby shall remain open for buying and selling, and the customs duties for exports and imports shall be the same as at other ports on the Moorish coast.

The Moorish Government agreed to grant suitable lots of land on twenty years' leases to foreign merchants on the application of their respective Legations, upon which they may construct at their own expense whatever dwellings and warehouses they may find necessary. At the end of the twenty years' lease the said allotments, with the buildings thereon, are to become the property of the Moorish Government.

The Moorish Government will not, however, be bound to provide houses or ware houses, nor to supply boats to land or ship cargo, until such time as it may please th Sultan to give orders to that effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 24.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Foreign Office, January 28, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 14th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copy of a note which Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has received from the Grand Vizier,* promising payment of the Cape Juby indemnity immediately on the arrival of the Court at Morocco city.

Sir A. Nicolson, in a despatch dated the 14th instant, states that the money should be ready for transmission, as the operation of counting it commenced some time ago; but he adds that he is informed that, owing to the insecurity of the roads, the Moorish Government were themselves obliged to meet their pressing needs by a

* No. 17.

consignment from Tangier, rather than venture to procure cash from the treasury chests at Morocco city.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 25.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 23, 1896.

WITH reference to my depatch No. 175 of the 20th December, I have the honour to transmit copy of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier, inclosing an order on the Customs of Tangier for the payment, in three months' time, of the claim preferred on account of the pillage of the "Virgen de los Angeles." Should your Lordship concur in this settlement, I will transmit the order to the Customs officials, and obtain from them an indorsement on the order that they will hand over the money to this Legation on the expiration of the three months. To-day is the 7th Shaaban (the month mentioned in the Vizier's letter), so that the order should fall due on the 15th April. In view of the penury of the Moorish Treasury, and the long delay which usually occurs in the settlement of claims after presentation, it seems to me that the Moorish Government have been prompt in offering payment on this occasion.

There is not, in the Vizier's note, the expression of regret which I had suggested they should make, but I do not think there is any signification in this omission; as in the note from the Vizier, which I had the honour to transmit in my despatch No. 151 of the 19th October, his Excellency expressed the annoyance and indignation which the Sultan had felt at the occurrence, and his present communication indicates a desire to make what is considered here to be exceedingly prompt and full reparation.

I may mention that the Moorish steamer, which is said to be destined for the patrol of the coast is, at present, under repair at Cadiz. I do not know when she will be ready for service, but, as I have mentioned in previous despatches, I do not anticipate much result from any action which she may undertake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moosa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 24 *Rajab*, 1313 (*January* 11, 1896).

I RECEIVED your letter, oh friend, that after Shereefian orders had been issued to send a Government steamer with accessories to patrol the Riff coast, to protect the vessels of friendly nations, which pass there, from possibilities that are to be feared from the shores of this State; you have settled the amount of the pillage and loss to the English vessel "Virgen de los Angeles," of which you had previously advised me of the pillage by the Riffians near Alhucemas, and that the total is 23,271 pes. 89 c.; asking for delivery of this amount to pay it over to its owners, merchants of your friendly nation; and asking attention to stopping this in the future from happening to vessels passing along the said coast. I am aware of this after bringing it to the knowledge of our Lord, and he has issued Shereefian orders to the Administrators of the port at Tangier to pay the said sum of money to you, that is 4,654 dol. 20 c., to be delivered to you in three months, dating from Shaaban following this month, and he also instructed me to reply to you of this, and that this haste to issue the Shereefian orders is from the attention he pays to your friendly Government, and to tranquillize your merchants with the certainty of the payment of their claims, in the customary manner of good transactions between the two friendly Governments. And as to paying attention to the striving after the safety of vessels on this coast, and on the shores of this Empire, the reply has been sent to your former

Chargé d'Affaires, stating his orders on the subject, denoting that the greatest anxiety was given to it, and it was sufficient. And our Lord has again written to Had Mohammed Torres, with greater attention and anxiety.

And the letter to the said Oomana to pay is inclosed, oh friend, that you may deliver it.

Finished.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOOSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 26.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 10.)

Tangier, January 23, 1896.

My Lord,

IN view of my approaching visit to the Shereefian Court, I would be glad to know if there are any matters which your Lordship would wish me to specially bring to the notice of the Moorish Government. I would submit, as a personal opinion, that it would perhaps be more advisable to limit the objects of my visit to the presentation of my credentials; to the settlement of a few pressing claims of British subjects; and to procuring the consent of the Sultan to one or two small local projects in which the Diplomatic Body and the public here are interested. I doubt if the moment would be favourable for entering upon larger questions, such as increased facilities for commercial intercourse, or the initiation of any measures for the development of the country. These matters might be postponed for future consideration, as I doubt if I would find a willing response to any proposals of the above nature; and it seems to me a waste of influence to embark on their discussion unless there were some reasonable hope of a satisfactory result being obtained.

It is, I think, extremely probable that the Tuat question will be mentioned to me, and that the Moorish Government will endeavour to obtain from me some precise indication of the views of Her Majesty's Government on that point. The Moorish Government, so far as my information goes, have not approached any Legation on the subject since my interview with Cid Mohammed Torres, as reported in my despatch No. 157 of the 4th November last, nor have I heard that the French authorities have again mooted the question. In these circumstances your Lordship may wish me to be cautious and reserved in my language, and to limit my observations to advising the Moorish Government to take no action which would be likely to induce the French authorities to raise the question in a form which might have unpleasant consequences. I gather that the Sultan has no troops in the Tuat Oasis, but merely some Kaïds; and it would be more prudent on the part of the Moorish Government not to attempt to emphasize their claim to the district by any overt act of whatever nature.

The tribes throughout the Empire are now comparatively tranquil, and the authority of the Sultan is apparently as generally recognized as can be expected under the peculiar conditions which govern this country. I presume your Lordship would wish me, therefore, to congratulate the Sultan on this state of affairs, and to convey the friendly wishes of Her Majesty's Government for his welfare and prosperity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 27.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 11.)

Tangier, January 24, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 166 of the 20th November, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier, transmitting to me two letters containing Shereefian orders for the payment of the sum of 500 dollars which was claimed on account of the pillage of a wrecked lighter at Laraiche. The Moorish Government still maintain their point of view, but in order to close a correspondence which has now been prosecuted for some time, they have decided to order the Governor to pay the money, and to recover the

amount from the villagers. I am taking steps to insure a speedy payment, and will forward the money to Mr. Vice-Consul Forde when I have received it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

28 *Jumad II*, 1313 (*December* 16, 1895).

I HAVE received your reply, O friend, about the affair of the wrecked lighter at Laraiche, that what the Oomana of that port had written that the agent of the merchants had collected what was thrown up by the sea, and that nothing of it was lost by robbery or otherwise; that there is some deviation from the facts, which are that the said agent collected some of what was thrown up, and that the coast people had got the portion you mention, amounting to 500 dollars, and asking that the Governor of the coast be compelled to pay this amount, until he can recover it from the Rakada villagers, who are charged with it. I am aware of this after bringing it to the knowledge of His Majesty, and he has instructed me to reply to you, O intelligent one, that the Government has made the proper arrangements to keep it from wrongdoing, and it will do its utmost by every possible means to this end. And as to the amount claimed for the pillage, you know that the Oomana have denied it, by the proofs they have seen in the town, and what has been told them by those who saw outside, and they have no partiality for the Consul, nor for the Rakada villagers, and they are the eyes and ears of the Government in that place in these matters; and to compel the said Kaïd or his subjects to pay, the Government has not seen sufficient proofs to warrant it; and if you rely upon the news you have received, it is necessary that the one should be treated as the other; but as you ask to have the said people made to pay anyhow, we look no longer to prove the arguments in the hands of the Government, or to their disproval. Our Lord has arranged to cut short the correspondence about the matter, to preserve the bonds of the firm friendship between his Shereefian Government and your friendly Government, and has issued his Shereefian orders to his servant, the Governor of the Kabila of Sahel, to pay the said sum through Hadj Mohammed Torres, and he may recover it from the said villagers; and the two Shereefian letters to this effect are inclosed.

May you remain, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 28.

Mr. Ashplant to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

Rose Villa, Mervan Road, Brixton, London, January 31, 1896.

My Lord,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated the 28th January, in which your Lordship informs me that Her Majesty's Government consider the country in North-west Africa, between River Nun and Cape Bojador, within the influence of the Sultan of Morocco. As, however, your Lordship is aware, the Arabs do not admit the suzerainty, I therefore beg to ask whether Her Majesty's Government would assist me in obtaining the Sultan's approval of the concessions as far as they relate to working the minerals, or other deposits; also, that Her Majesty's Government should make application to the Sultan for a grant of 20 acres of land at Cape Juby for purpose of erecting building for trading purposes.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. DAVIDGE ASHPLANT.

No. 29.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Foreign Office, February 5, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 16th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco proposes to leave Tangier early on the 9th March next on his way to Mazagan, where, after visiting the intermediate ports, he will arrive on the 13th.

Sir A. Nicolson expects to be able to leave Mogador, on his return journey, on or about the 24th April.

As the 8th of March is a Sunday, it would be desirable that the ship of war which will convey Sir A. Nicolson from Tangier to Mazagan should arrive at the former port on the 7th, and should be in readiness to re-embark the Mission at Mogador about the last week in April next.

I am to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to give the orders necessary to carry out the above arrangements.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 30.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)

Foreign Office, February 6, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 10 of the 23rd ultimo in regard to your approaching visit to the Moorish Court, and the subjects to be discussed by you on that occasion.

I approve the language which you propose to use in the event of the question of Tuat being broached to you, and the congratulations and good wishes which you suggest that you should convey to the Sultan on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 31.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 13.)

Foreign Office, February 6, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 11 of the 24th ultimo, and have learnt with satisfaction that you have received from the Grand Vizier letters containing Shereefian orders for the payment of the sum of 500 dollars which was claimed on account of the pillage of a lighter wrecked at Laraiche.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 32.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 12. Confidential.)

Tangier, January 31, 1896.

My Lord,

THE German Minister, during the course of a conversation to-day, asked me if I had any news as to Tuat, and, on my replying in the negative, he remarked that he had noticed that the French press were reviving the question. I told him that I had seen one or two articles dealing with the matter, but it did not appear as if there were any desire to bring forward the question at this moment; in fact, the articles seemed to consider that Tuat must inevitably fall into French hands by the natural course of

things, and that there was no need to precipitate events. No doubt, if the French were intent on occupying the oasis, there were few serious material difficulties in the way, and it seemed to me that it would be wise on the part of the Moorish Government to take no action which would invite attention to the question.

Count Tattenbach said he anticipated that if Tuat passed into French hands that Tafilet would follow suit, and that this would be a more serious matter. I said that these were questions of the future, which it would be useless to discuss at present. I asked him if he believed that the ultimate aim of the French was to gradually absorb Morocco, even up to the northern coast. Count Tattenbach said he thought the Algerian authorities, if not the French Government, had wide-reaching views, but that as regards Tangier the French would never be allowed to occupy it, so long as the German Legation were in Morocco. I did not gather the meaning of this observation, which was emphatically stated, but I did not pursue the conversation, merely observing that there were other parties interested in the future of Tangier, who would probably have a word to say in the matter.

I may mention that Count Tattenbach, who will shortly leave here, has apparently changed his attitude towards the Moorish Government. Formerly he was their warm supporter, but since his return from leave of absence, he has evinced a disposition to be unnecessarily harsh in his dealings with the Moorish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14.)

Foreign Office, February 10, 1896.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of correspondence with Mr. Davidge Ashplant,* who states that he has acquired an interest in a Concession in North-West Africa, situated between the River Nun and Cape Bojador.

Mr. Ashplant has requested Her Majesty's Government to assist him in obtaining the Sultan's approval of the Concessions as far as they relate to working the minerals and other deposits contained in them; he is also desirous that Her Majesty's Government should apply to the Sultan on his behalf for a grant of land at Cape Juby with a view to the erection there of buildings for trading purposes.

Mr. Ashplant has been informed of the terms of the arrangement come to last year with the Moorish Government in regard to the construction by foreign merchants of dwellings and warehouses on the territory in question.

I should wish to be favoured with your opinion as to the expediency of putting either of these requests before the Moorish Government.

If, as I apprehend, there is likely to be difficulty in obtaining their sanction to the Concessions, it would seem doubtful whether any pressure should be exercised for the purpose. The question of a grant of land at Cape Juby stands on a somewhat different footing, as the Moorish Government are pledged to make such grants on the application of the foreign Legations. It would not, however, be unreasonable that they should make some conditions to insure that the Concession shall not be used for other than the avowed purpose, or in a manner that would cause embarrassment or disturbance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 34.

Foreign Office to Mr. Ashplant.

Foreign Office, February 11, 1896.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 31st ultimo in regard to the Concessions, between the River Nun and Cape Bojador, in which you are interested, and your wish to obtain a grant of land at Cape Juby for building and trading purposes.

* Nos. 18, 22, 23, and 28.

I am to state that Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco will be consulted on the subject of your application, and that a further communication will be made to you in due course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 35.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 12.)

Sir, *Admiralty, February* 10, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 5th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Secretary of State that directions have been given for one of Her Majesty's ships to be at Tangier not later than the 7th March for the purpose of conveying Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco to Mazagan.

2. With regard to the return passage, my Lords will be glad to learn later on the actual date, if it can be given, when a ship may be required at Mogador for this purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 36.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1896.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 8 of the 23rd ultimo in regard to your approaching visit to the Court at Morocco city, I have to inform you that directions have been given by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that one of Her Majesty's ships should be at Tangier not later than the 7th March for the purpose of conveying you to Mazagan.

Their Lordships will be glad to be informed of the precise date, so soon as you may be able to fix it, at which a ship may be required to meet you at Mazagan for the return journey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 37.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 14, 1896.

CAPE JUBY Agreement: your Lordship's telegram No. 2 of this date.

The balance of the indemnity will be sent, I am assured, on the Sultan's arrival at Morocco City, which place His Majesty should now have reached; and, on the 2nd February, I urged the despatch of the money at once, in a message to the Grand Vizier.

In obedience to your Lordship's telegram, I am sending a communication to his Excellency, which will be delivered, if the money has not yet left Morocco City.

The money ought to reach the Legation within, at most, six weeks, but I scarcely like to mention any date for certain.

No. 38.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1896.

THE North-west African Company are getting very anxious about the payment of the second portion of the purchase money for their settlement at Cape Juby. If a date could be stated by which the payment could be expected with certainty, this would be of assistance to them.

Please endeavour to ascertain whether the money has by this time been dispatched from Morocco City. Unless it is paid over without further delay, you should intimate plainly to the Moorish Government that, in view of the payment being now five months in arrears, they must be prepared for a further claim being made on them for interest. It would, moreover, be well if you warned them that we regard the payment of this money as one of the essential conditions of the Agreement negotiated and concluded by Sir C. Satow.

No. 39.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 13. Most Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 15, 1896.

THE French Ambassador's visit to Paris is in connection with negotiations for a loan to Spain of eight millions, in return for an understanding on the subject of Morocco. The German Ambassador is privy to the scheme.

I learn this on the best authority.

No. 40.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that, in consequence of the representations made by the Chairman of your Company on the 13th instant, Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco was instructed, by telegraph, to make a further earnest representation to the Moorish Government in regard to the protracted delay in the payment of the remaining instalment of the Cape Juby purchase money, and to endeavour to ascertain whether the money had yet been dispatched from Morocco City.

Sir A. Nicolson reports in reply that he has been assured that the money will be remitted when the Sultan reaches Morocco, where His Majesty should by this time have arrived.

Sir A. Nicolson states that he made a further representation to the Grand Vizier on the 2nd instant urging that it should be dispatched at once, and that he is now addressing a letter to the Vizier, to be delivered if the money has not yet left Morocco, warning the Moorish Government that a further claim for interest must be expected unless the payment is made forthwith.

Sir A. Nicolson hesitates to name any definite date at which payment may be anticipated, but considers that the remaining instalment should be in the hands of Her Majesty's Legation within six weeks at latest from the present time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 41.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 17, 1896.

MOROCCO: My telegrams Nos. 13 and 14.

In a conversation to-day with the German Ambassador, his Excellency admitted that he was aware the subject of Morocco was being discussed by the French Ambassador with the Spanish Government. Reports from the German Minister at Tangier represent the French Representative there as being very active of late in conferring with native Chiefs and others.

His Excellency appeared to be in possession of further information which he was unwilling to communicate.

No. 42.

North-West African Company to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 18.)

My Lord, 132, *Cheapside, London, February* 17, 1896.

I AM instructed by the Directors of the North-West African Company to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 15th instant, and to thank your Lordship for the prompt steps taken in respect of the overdue instalment of the Cape Juby purchase-money.

I am, &c.
(For North-West African Company, Limited),
(Signed) GEO. RAYNOR, *Secretary.*

No. 43.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 18, 1896.

FRANCE and Morocco: Your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 3 and 4 of this day's date.

(Secret.)

I reported to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 23 of the 16th instant, that the French Minister here had recently been travelling in this neighbourhood. He was accompanied by the young Wazzani Shereefs. The principal object of this journey seems to have been to place under the protection of the Shereefs a number of villages near this place. For all practical purposes this amounts to granting them French protection. I am inquiring further into this action of the French Representative, which may have a certain significance.

No. 44.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 16. Most Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 19, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 15, I have spoken with the Duke of Tetuan, who practically, though unofficially, transacts Foreign Office business. He states that nothing beyond minor matters can be settled between the Governments of France and Spain, on account of the state of the former. He admits that the question of Morocco had been under discussion, though only cursorily, and he assures me that Señor Canovas has in no way pledged himself, nor will he do so without the Minister for

Foreign Affairs, and that he will always act in concert with Her Majesty's Government as regards Morocco.

The Duke of Tetuan's language, although reassuring, cannot bind the Government, and I am trying to see the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has been ill.

No. 45.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 19, 1896.

MY telegram No. 3.

I have been informed by Kaïd Maclean that a definite promise has been made by the Vizier that the Cape Juby indemnity will reach Mazagan by the 2nd March. This stipulation was made before the Vizier could have received my last communication.

No. 46.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 19, 1896.

THE Sultan begs me to postpone my visit to Marakesh for fifteen days, as he has delayed his entry into that city. I should not thus require the vessel until March 23rd.

No. 47.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 15th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has heard from Kaïd Maclean that, according to a definite promise given by the Vizier, the balance of the Cape Juby purchase-money may be expected to arrive at Mazagan by the 2nd proximo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 48.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 17. Most Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 20, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 4, I have had an interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has no information respecting French action in Morocco, owing to the absence of the Spanish Minister, who has been engaged in endeavouring to settle the stipulations of the last Treaty.

His Excellency assured me that Spain would always adhere to the policy of acting with England as regards the affairs of Morocco.

No. 49.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 5th instant in regard to the movements of Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Sir A. Nicolson has been requested by the Moorish Government to postpone his visit to Morocco city for fifteen days.

I am to request, therefore, that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will direct that a ship of war may be in readiness to embark Sir A. Nicolson at Tangier on the 23rd, instead of on the 7th, proximo, as had been previously fixed.

The date of the re-embarkation of the Mission will also no doubt be altered; the details of their further arrangements will be communicated to your Lordships as soon as they are received from Her Majesty's Minister.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 50.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 7. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 20, 1896.

FRANCE, Spain, and Morocco: telegrams Nos. 3, 4, and 5 from your Lordship.

(Secret.)

I had yesterday a conversation with the Spanish Minister, which I have reported to your Lordship in a despatch going by the next bag, when his Excellency told me most confidentially, that when he was in Madrid, he had made a proposal to his Government for the neutralization of the Empire of Morocco under Spanish guardianship, in view of the political situation here becomimg precarious, in the event of complications in Europe.

When an opportunity for doing so occurred, the above proposal was to be placed before the European Powers.

No. 51.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 22.)

Sir, *Downing Street, February* 22, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier reporting a settlement proposed by the Grand Vizier of Morocco in the case of the "Virgen de los Angeles," I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to state, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, that he thinks that the settlement should be accepted, and that Sir A. Nicolson should be instructed on receiving the money to hand it over to the Governor of Gibraltar for payment to the persons entitled to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

No. 52.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 3, 1896.

I HAVE had the honour to report to your Lordship that the Moorish Government have been recently engaged in bringing under subjection the powerful tribe of Rahamna, which a short time ago were in rebellion against the authority of the Sultan. The process of enforcing their submission has been a comparatively pacific one, unattended by acts of hostility, but executed in the customary Moorish manner by heavy fines and penalties. Cid Bubker, a British protégé, is possessed of large properties near Morocco city, and is ill regarded by the Moorish Government, who accuse him as having been instrumental in encouraging and aiding the tribe in their recent rebellion against the Sultan. In reply to the complaints made on former occasions, and recently to me, by the Moorish Government on this point, I informed the Grand Vizier that I would inquire into the matter on the occasion of my visit to the Shereefian Court.

Kaïd Maclean subsequently informed me, in a private letter, that the Vizier now alleged that many of the Rahamna tribe had taken refuge on the properties of Cid Bubker, and that it was necessary that the latter should not harbour these men, but hand them over to the Moorish authorities. I beg leave to transmit copies of the correspondence which has passed on this question with Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-el-Baida, and which will place your Lordship in possession of the details of the case.

It is quite possible that the allegations of the Grand Vizier are greatly exaggerated, and that he is endeavouring to attach a further accusation on Cid Bubker with the object of damaging his reputation and position. I have not been furnished with a copy of the letter which Cid Bubker is reported to have addressed to Mulaï Abdul Malk, and so am unable to state whether it is true that the former desired to throw his protection over all the people who were settled in, or had entered his extensive properties. I shall probably hear more on this point when I reach Morocco city. In the meantime I thought it desirable to point out to Mr. Consul Maclean that too elastic an interpretation should not be given to the protection accorded to Cid Bubker, and that the latter should give no cause of complaint to the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Dar-el-Baida, January* 28, 1896.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith the copy of a letter I received last night from my brother, and which was written at the request of the Vizier, together with my reply.

The Vizier complains that Cid Bubker wishes to protect, on his different properties, a number of people, comprising quite one-third of the Rahamna tribe, and he requests me to order Cid Bubker to deliver up all such people as are not British protected, and to give permission to the Moorish Government to seize them, if my command is not complied with within such reasonable time as I may mention.

I have informed my brother that I have referred the matter to you, and that it is beyond my power to give the Moorish Government permission to seize people on properties belonging to a British-protected subject, and I inclosed a letter from Cid Bubker, with a copy for the Vizier's information, telling him of the complaint that had been made, and pointing out to him that our rights in this country are those that are written in the Treaties, and I order him to look well to his responsibilities,

and to be careful that those who work for him are men who keep the law, and that no one who acted against the law is allowed to remain on his property.

I inclose a copy of the draft of my letter to Cid Bubker for your information, and I trust both it and the one I have written to my brother will meet with your approval.

In view of the Vizier's urgent request for immediate action, I judged that I had better send some kind of a reply, and also write to Cid Bubker; as, if the Vizier's alleged information is sound, the state of affairs must be extremely irritating to the Moorish Government.

On the other hand, if refugees were handed over to the Moorish Government without any kind of guarantee, they would be cruelly treated.

I have no doubt the Vizier's statement that one-third of the Rahamna tribe is on Bubker's properties is an exaggeration; it would mean several thousand men, and the sacredness of a sanctuary is a well-understood, and a constantly exercised institution of Morocco.

As my brother suggests, it is possible that a few of the Rahamna rebels have sought refuge on Cid Bubker's properties, without the proprietor being aware of the fact, but, in all probability, on receipt of my letter, he will be most careful that none of them remain.

I regret that there is not time to inclose to you by this steamer the Moorish translation of my draft to Cid Bubker.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Kaïd Maclean to Consul Maclean.

Sultan's Camp, Rahamna, January 24, 1896.

THE Vizier has asked me to write and inform you that Cid Bubker has sent a letter to Mulaï Abd-el-Malek, who commands one of the Sultan's camps, giving a long list of his properties and warning Mulaï Abd-el-Malek that these properties and all persons on them must not be touched.

The Vizier says that the people Cid Bubker wishes to protect are quite one-third of the whole of the Rahamna tribe, and some of the worst of them, and that he is sure the British Government would not allow this. He therefore requests you will kindly send him a letter for Cid Bubker ordering him to hand over to the Government at once all persons on his properties who have not protection, and permission for the Government to take such persons if Cid Bubker does not comply with your order in a reasonable time, such time to be stated in your letter. The Vizier begs you will send these letters as soon as possible.

I told the Vizier he should write to you himself, but he said I am to write. As I know the Bashadar is anxious to avoid further complications in Cid Bubker's affairs, I think it better to write.

The Rahamna people are greatly pressed at present by the Government, and it is possible some of them may have taken refuge on Cid Bubker's properties without his knowledge.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) HARRY MACLEAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 52.

Consul Maclean to Kaïd Maclean.

Dar-el-Baida, January 28, 1896.

LAST night I received your letter of the 24th instant, written by request of the Vizier, to inform me that Mulaï Abd-el-Malek, who commands one of the Sultan's camps, had received a letter from Cid Bubker Ghanjawi giving a long list of his

properties and warning Mulaï Abd-el-Malek that these properties and all the people on them must not be touched. I note that the Vizier states that the people Cid Bubker wishes to protect form one-third of the Rahamna tribe, and some of the worst characters of the tribe.

The Vizier requests I will send him a letter for Cid Bubker ordering him to hand over at once to the Moorish Government all persons on his properties who have not protection, or for me to give permission to the Moorish Government to seize such persons if Cid Bubker does not comply with my order within such reasonable time as I may mention in my letter.

The matter is so serious that I have forwarded your letter to Her Majesty's Minister in Tangier by a steamer leaving to-day.

It is beyond my power to give the Moorish Government permission to seize people on property belonging to a British protected subject, but I inclose you a letter, for the information of the Vizier, informing him of the complaint that is made against him, and desiring him to use every means in his power to prevent his properties being made use of as a refuge by people who have acted, or are acting, against the laws of the country.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to Her Majesty's Minister; it is the most I can do under the circumstances.

Please assure the Vizier of my respectful friendship for him.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 52.

Consul Maclean to Cid Bubker.

Dar-el-Baida, January 28, 1896.

THE Vizier has sent me a message complaining that you have sent Mulaï Abd-el-Malek a list of your properties and warned him that none of them must be touched nor the people on them.

Now these people, the Vizier says, comprise quite one-third of the Rahamna tribe, *i.e.*, those people who have been rebelling.

I believe that, possibly, people concerning whom you may know nothing, have sought refuge on your properties, as the tribes who dared to rebel against the Sultan are learning a lesson, and the people belonging to them will naturally flee everywhere, and take refuge wherever they can. But we English are on very friendly terms with the Sultan's Government, and our rights are those that are written in the Treaties, which you know very well. I therefore command you, for your good, to look well to your responsibilities, to be careful that those that work for you are men who keep the law, and that no one who has acted against the law is allowed to remain on your property.

In the same way as it is our duty to help our friends, I advise you very strongly to do everything you can in this matter to assist the Moorish Government.

I am forwarding a copy of the Vizier's message and of this letter to Her Majesty's Minister in Tangier.

Peace.

(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 52.

Sir A. Nicolson to Maclean.

Sir, *Tangier, February* 2, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 28th ultimo inclosing copies of correspondence relative to the alleged harbouring of refugees from the Rahamna tribe by Cid Bubker. I approve the tenour of the letter which you have addressed to Cid Bubker, and the anvice which you have given him.

In my opinion it is essential that the system of protection be restrained within

reasonable limits, and should not be permitted to cover those who are not entitled to the privilege.

Cid Bubker, individually, and his properties enjoy British protection, but this does not constitute the latter into a sanctuary for individuals whom the Moorish Government may consider as rebellious against their authority. Moreover, it seems to me that it would be difficult to exact a guarantee from the Moorish Government as to the future treatment of refugees who may have sought an asylum on the property of a British protected subject. This would entail on us a somewhat serious responsibility, and would considerably add to the obligations which are assumed by the bestowal of protection. Were it accepted as a principle it might, I fear, lead to many abuses, and would give rise to complications.

I trust that Cid Bubker will follow the instructions which you have sent him, and will give no cause for any complaints on the part of the Moorish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 53.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 4, 1896.

KAÏD MACLEAN informs me that the balance of the Cape Juby indemnity is packed and sealed and ready for transport from Morocco city, and that the Grand Vizier assures him that he will dispatch it to the coast immediately after the Ramadan, or in about six weeks' time. I have written to Kaïd Maclean requesting him to impress on the Vizier that it is of urgent necessity that no further delay be allowed to elapse in the dispatch of the money, and that as the roads are now open, and the districts pacified, that it should be sent off at once to the coast under a proper escort.

I have also requested Kaïd Maclean to explain once more to the Vizier that this continued procrastination in fulfilling the engagements of the Moorish Government is causing not only serious loss to the Company, but is making a bad impression, and that it would be prudent on the part of the former to settle the question without further loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 54.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 4, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 180 of the 30th December, I have the honour to transmit translation of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier in regard to the measures which the Moorish Government propose to take against the Riffians implicated in the plunder of the "Virgen de los Angeles."

As the Vizier seems to have misunderstood the request I had made to him as to the term of imprisonment to which the Riffs, who have been identified, shou ldbe subjected, I have replied in a note, of which I beg leave to inclose a copy.

I also send a copy of my former note to the Vizier on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 26 *Rajab*, 1313 (*January* 13, 1896).

I RECEIVED your letter, oh friend, and note your pleasure at the capture by the Governor of Tetuan of some of the Riffians who had the audacity to attack the vessel "Virgen de los Angeles," and asking that attention be paid to the remainder of the evil-doers, as they are all from the same village; and that those imprisoned be not released until the remainder are caught, and the affair arranged with the merchants. I am aware of it after bringing it to the knowledge of His Majesty—God protect him—and he has instructed me to reply, oh friend, to your pleasure at the wish of the Government—God exalt it—to pay the greatest attention to all your affairs that are brought before His Shereefian Majesty, that he is watchful never to fail in the fulfilment of it as equitably, justly, and rightly as possible, both in this affair and in others, in order to protect the fixed bonds of friendship and affection existing between the Shereefian Government and your friendly Government.

His Shereefian Majesty has received a notice from the above-mentioned Governor of his capture of the said men, and has issued orders to him not to release any of them, and impressed on him to be watchful, and to capture any of the Bocoya villagers he comes across, as you asked.

And as to arranging the affair, a separate reply has been sent to you a short time since inclosing a letter to the servants of our Lord, the Administrators of the Port of Tangier—God guard it—to pay to you through the Naïb, Hadj Mohammed Torres, the sum you had advised, as including the property stolen and other losses sustained, amounting to 4,654½ dollars; that it is to be paid at the expiration of three months, the first month to be Shaaban proximo, in attention to your Excellency, and to relieve the anxiety of your merchants.

May you continue contented in mind and happy.

Finished.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, December* 27, 1895.

I HAVE pleasure in informing your Excellency that the Governor of Tetuan has succeeded in capturing some Riffians, from among whom the captain of the British falucha "Virgen de los Angeles" has identified two as forming part of the band of pirates who attacked and plundered his vessel. I have no doubt, oh friend, that you will cause measures to be taken which will enable others of the malefactors to be captured, as they all belong to the same village, and I should request you to give instructions that the two men who have been identified should be sentenced to a lengthy term of imprisonment, and that they should not be released, but kept in close confinement. It is necessary, oh friend, that these evil-doers should be submitted to this punishment, as an example and warning to others, and I trust that you will not allow them to be released till this Legation has been consulted on the matter.

I write this in friendship.

Peace.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 54.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, February* 4, 1896.

I HAVE received your friendly letter of the 13th January last in regard to the measures which His Majesty (whom God protect) intends to take against the evil-doers among the Riffian population; and the news you have sent me is satisfactory, and

shows, oh friend, how anxious His Majesty is to meet the wishes of my Government. This is good, and is welcome. I may have read your letter amiss, but there is one point on which I should like to make a remark. You say, oh friend, that I requested that the Riff prisoners should not be released till the other malefactors were captured. If you will look at my letter you will see that I wish them to be retained in prison for a lengthy term as a punishment for their offences, and not be released till Her Majesty's Legation has been consulted on the matter. This you see is but just, and so peace and friendship.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 55.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 7, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, reporting the visit to Dar-el-Baida of a German gentleman, who is supposed to be a military officer.

The only German military officer who, to my knowledge, has recently arrived in Morocco is a Count Königsmarck. This officer was here for a few days, but visited no one, and declined invitations to his own Legation.

I do not know whether he proceeded to the coast or returned to Europe. If he is the gentleman referred to by Consul Maclean, I hardly think he can be employed on any confidential mission, as, from a former slight acquaintance with him, I should doubt his being selected for any duty of that nature.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Dar-el-Baida, February* 3, 1896.

ABOUT a fortnight ago a German arrived here from Rabat, where he had stayed for some little time. I understand that he will shortly leave here for the southern ports of Morocco.

It is stated that he is travelling for his pleasure. To the best of my knowledge he has visited no one in Dar-el-Baida excepting the German Consul.

I lately met him riding in the neighbourhood of Fedolah, an ancient port of Morocco, about 12 miles north of this place. I am informed that he has been seen at other spots on the coast in this vicinity which would make likely landing-places.

I was struck by this gentleman's very soldierly appearance, and asked my German colleague in a casual manner who he was, but received an evasive reply.

As it is possible that this gentleman may be an officer of the German Intelligence Department, I think it advisable to report his presence here for your Excellency's information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 56.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 17.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 7, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to report that M. de Ojeda returned yesterday from his visit to Madrid. I inquired of him whether anything had been settled as to his journey to the Court at Morocco city, and he replied that it had been decided that he should postpone the presentation

of his letters of credence for the moment. This decision is in accordance with the wishes of M. de Ojeda, as reported in my above-mentioned despatch; and I gathered from him that his Government do not desire to discuss the questions pending with the Moorish Government until they are free from embarrassments in regard to the Cuban difficulty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 57.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 11, 1896.

THE Sultan has been prolonging his stay among the Rahamna tribe with the view of settling matters with them, but principally with the object of securing the person of Embark Ben Seleman, who had fled on the approach of the Royal army. Ben Seleman is the most important person among the Rahamna, and on the death of the late Sultan he refused to recognize the reigning Sovereign, but headed a revolt of the Rahamna tribe in favour of His Majesty's brother.

A force of cavalry was recently dispatched after Ben Selemen, and his capture was effected, apparently without much difficulty. He has now been brought into the Sultan's camp. Kaïd Maclean informs me that he was taken before His Majesty, who upbraided him in severe language for his disloyalty and for the misery he had brought upon many of the tribe who had joined him in his rebellious acts. The Sultan added that he was Sovereign by the grace of God, and that though he forgave him for the evil acts done towards his person, he could not pardon the wrongs he had done to his subjects. His Majesty therefore ordered him to be handed over to the Ulema to be judged according to the sacred laws.

The Ulema have condemned Ben Seleman as a traitor, and have ordered that he should be publicly exhibited throughout the country as such. After this he was to be crucified or beheaded, or banished from the country, as the Sultan might think fit to direct. Ben Seleman has been placed in an iron cage heavily manacled, and is to be shown at Morocco city, Fez, and Mequinez. Kaid Maclean has represented to the Grand Vizier the cruelty of keeping the man in an iron cage, and he has hopes of being able to modify this portion of the punishment.

With the capture of Ben Seleman the prestige of the Sultan has been greatly enhanced, and it will tend to the establishment of his authority throughout the country. The Sultan's camp set out on the 6th instant on their march to Morocco city, which should be reached about to-day's date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 58.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 11, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with the Shereefian orders, Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres has paid into this Legation the sum of 500 dollars in settlement of the claim arising out of the pillage of a portion of the cargo of the British steam-ship "Mequinez" washed ashore from a lighter wrecked at Laraiche. I am forwarding this amount to the British Vice-Consul at that port for payment to the parties entitled thereto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 59.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 14, 1896.

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 2 of the 13th instant this morning, and must express my regret at the protracted delay in the payment of the Cape Juby purchase-money. I have been frequently assured that the money is ready, and that it would be dispatched as soon as the Court reached Morocco city. The Sultan was delayed longer than was anticipated on his march, but he should by the latest accounts have reached his capital by now.

In a letter which I received from Kaïd Maclean about a fortnight ago, he reported that the money was all ready, and would be dispatched after the feast. Surmising that the feast, to which allusion was made, referred to the Bairam Feast, which will not be over till the 22nd proximo, I wrote at once to Kaïd Maclean, requesting him to impress seriously on the Grand Vizier that no further delay should be allowed to occur in sending the money, and that now that the districts were pacified and the roads open it should be dispatched at once, and not be kept for another month or so. I asked him to tell the Grand Vizier from me that the case was urgent, and that the delay was prejudicial to the Company, and by no means wise policy on the part of the Moorish Government.

I now beg leave to inclose copy of a further communication I have made to the Grand Vizier, and which I have sent under cover to Kaïd Maclean, requesting him to deliver it in case the money has not been already dispatched.

I have every hope that the money will shortly be on its way, and it should be in the hands of this Legation within six weeks at the latest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, February* 14, 1896.

I HAVE been anxiously waiting for news from your Excellency that the Cape Juby purchase-money had left Morocco city for the coast, as it is now five months overdue, and this long delay in delivering it is causing, as I have already informed your Excellency, serious embarrassments to the Company, and, I must add, great annoyance to my Government. Your Excellency will understand that when an engagement has been entered into between two parties, it is the duty of both parties to fulfil scrupulously their respective parts of the engagement. This the Company has done, so far as it is concerned, and I should remind you that the payment of the purchase-money at the stipulated periods was an essential part of the engagement which the Moorish Government undertook to perform on their side. It is therefore of the highest importance to the Moorish Government that no further delay be allowed to elapse. Further, I must point out to your Excellency that, unless the money is handed over forthwith, the Moorish Government must expect a claim on account of interest, and it would be well to avoid the necessity of such a claim being presented.

I wish to impress seriously on you, oh friend, the urgency of the case, and I expect that if the money has not already started that it be dispatched without the delay of a day.

May you continue in prosperity and health.

Peace.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 60.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 21.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 14, 1896.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 138 of the 22nd December, 1895, I have the honour to transmit translation of the reply of Cid Mohammed Torres to the letter addressed to him by Mr. White on the 19th October of last year, regarding the formalities which the Moorish Government desire to have observed in the performance of commercial transactions.

The above note of Cid Mohammed Torres has been left for some time unanswered, as the foreign Representatives delayed coming to an agreement as to the nature of the reply. The French Minister drew up a few days ago a draft reply, which was agreed to by all the other Representatives, and as they desired to send it in without further delay I have adopted a similar course, so as to act simultaneously with my colleagues.

I beg leave to inclose copy of this document.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

Cid Mohammed Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 6 *Rajab*, 1313 (*December* 24, 1895).

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the Shereefian reply has reached me about that which I had written you concerning the important matter of governing commercial transactions. I sent your reply about this to His Majesty, in which you reasoned that the entering of Government officials into settling transactions is a violation of the Commercial Treaties with you, and the Government is aware of the whole of its contents.

But the intention of the Government is not by this rule to have the Government officials to enter into the transactions, nor to violate Treaties, but its intention is to guard the property of merchants, and its care to prevent it being thrown into risk. As whoever wishes to enter into business with anybody must take the responsibility, and it must be between them without any claim on the Government for payment.

The Government will give its assistance until the debtor pays what debts are proved against him, if he has the wherewithal to pay what he owes, and if he has not sufficient to pay all, it will give its assistance for the payment of what he has. And as to what is lost of the property of the debtor, wholly or in part, there is no responsibility nor claim against the Government, nor anybody else for it, as he alone is to be responsible for the debts.

This is the whole contents of the Shereefian letter.

And the reply to it.

Peace.

(Signed) CID MOHAMMED-BEN-ARBY TORRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Mohammed Torres.

(Après les compliments d'usage.) 27 *Shaaban*, 1313 (*le* 12 *Février*, 1896).

EN réponse à la lettre que je vous avais écrite, le 19 Octobre, pour protester, d'ordre de mon Gouvernement, contre les formes nouvelles que Sa Majesté le Sultan venait d'introduire dans la conclusion des marchés entre étrangers et indigènes, vous m'avez fait savoir, le 24 Décembre, 1895, que le Makhzen a pris en considération les observations formulées à cet égard par les Représentants.

Vous déclarez que le but de votre Gouvernement n'est pas d'édicter par le règlement dont il s'agit, l'ingérence des Gouverneurs dans les transactions commerciales, ni de porter atteinte aux droits conférés par les Traités, mais de sauvegarder les biens des négociants, et de les préserver des tromperies, de telle façon que quiconque se mettra en relations d'affaires avec une autre personne acceptera à l'avance les risques auxquels ces opérations sont exposées, et que l'affaire passera entre les deux parties sans que le Makhzen puisse être sollicité de payer. Vous ajoutez que, néanmoins, le Makhzen fera le nécessaire pour que le débiteur paie les dettes valablement contractées par lui, mais que si le créancier subit des pertes, le Makhzen ni personne ne saurait en être rendu responsable, car personne ne peut être poursuivi pour les dettes d'un autre.

Il m'importe tout d'abord de vous faire remarquer que je n'ai jamais prétendu faire supporter au Makhzen les pertes que mes ressortissants ont pu subir du fait de leurs opérations commerciales avec des sujets de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, mais bien celles qui proviennent à l'occasion de ces opérations, du fait des autorités Marocaines. Vous savez, en effet, que bien souvent les Gouverneurs de Provinces, au lieu de prendre les mesures nécessaires, en vue d'obliger leurs administrés à s'acquitter envers mes ressortissants, ont laissé les premiers dissimuler leurs ressources, ou aliéner leurs biens, de telle façon qu'au moment ou le créancier demande le paiement qui lui est dû, son débiteur lui répond qu'il n'a plus rien. C'est dans ces cas analogues, que je suis obligé de recourir au Makhzen afin de régler les affaires de mes concitoyens, car le Makhzen est certainement responsable de la négligence, ou de la nonchalance de ses fonctionnaires. Vous voyez par là que l'intervention des Adouls dans les marchés conclus entre indigènes et étrangers, ne serait pas de nature à modifier la situation actuelle; elle réside uniquement dans le mauvais vouloir dont sont animés envers les étrangers, certains de vos fonctionnaires, au contraire, l'obligation de recourir à des notaires pour dresser les contrats, ne pourrait qu'augmenter les occasions de fraude au détriment de mes ressortissants, sans qu'il en résulte pour eux une sécurité de plus, ni pour le Makhzen une garantie quelconque.

Je serais par conséquent reconnaissant si les ordonnances soient retirées, comme cela a été demandé dans la lettre de Mr. White sous date du 19 Octobre, 1895.

(Signé) A. NICOLSON.

No. 61.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 23. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February 16, 1896.*

A CERTAIN curiosity has been aroused among some of my colleagues here in regard to the movements of the French Minister in the districts neighbouring Arzila, a small port a few hours distant from Tangier. M. de Monbel has been making a tour in those parts, in company with two sons of the late Shereef of Wazzan; and has been received, I am told, with considerable ceremony. This would be but natural, both on account of his own official character, and of the high esteem in which his two companions are held by the natives. In itself the journey of M. de Monbel is perhaps of comparative unimportance, but it has been attended by the indirect extention of French protection which may have a certain significance. I am told that many villages, a list of which has been promised me, have placed themselves under the protection of the two young Shereefs, who are themselves under the ægis of the French Legation. It appears that the inhabitants of the villages will in future be exempted from State taxation; and in cases of litigation or difficulties with the local authorities, will, in the first place address themselves to the Shereefs, who will bring their complaints to the notice of the French Legation, should their own representations to the Moorish authorities prove to be unsuccessful.

Apart from the abuse thus made of the protection system, and the losses it will cause to the provincial Treasury, losses which will be made good by increased pressure on those who are not similarly privileged, it seems to me that, in the future, the extension of French influence throughout a large district, bordering on this town, may have some consequences. I am making further inquiries into the matter, but I wished to report to your Lordship what has already been brought to my knowledge,

as I consider it likely that the Moorish Government will talk to me on the whole question of protection on the occasion of my visit to Court.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 62.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 20.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 24, 1896.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 9 of the 23rd ultimo, in regard to the mode of settlement offered by the Moorish Government in the case of the British felucho "Virgen de los Angeles," I have to request that on receipt of the compensation money you will hand it over to the Governor of Gibraltar for payment to the persons entitled to it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 63.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 21.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 24, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 20 of the 14th instant in regard to the continued delay on the part of the Moorish Government to pay the balance of the money due on account of their purchase of the property of the North West African Company at Cape Juby.

I approve the further note which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier upon the subject, and a copy of which you inclose.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 64.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 24, 1896.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, in regard to the claims arising out of the pillage of the British falucho "Virgen de los Angeles."

In accordance with Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's suggestion, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier will be instructed to hand over to the Governor of Gibraltar the money in settlement of the claims in question, as soon as it has been received at Her Majesty's Legation.

As you were informed in my letter of the 24th ultimo, Sir A. Nicolson has already been authorized to accept the mode of payment proposed by the Moorish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 65.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 36. Most Secret.)

My Lord, *Madrid, February 22, 1896.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 5, I should say that the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Thursday alluded to a proposal of the nature mentioned as having been discarded by him. He, however, did not say from what quarter it proceeded, and

treated it as an incident of former days. I find the greatest caution necessary, owing to the evident understanding between the German and French Embassies, and the inexperience of the Italian Ambassador.

Both the Austrian and German Ambassadors have told me that never, for years, have the relations of Germany with France and Russia been so close as at present.

It is to be seen if Russia, in her new character as a Mediterranean Power, will take any active part in respect to Morocco.

Hitherto the Spanish Minister at Tangier has, in an exceptional manner, held letters of credence as Russian Minister in Morocco. The newly-appointed Russian Minister has the reputation of great activity, and I have for some time heard of a desire on his part for Russia to consolidate her influence in the Mediteranean.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 66.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 25.)

Sir, *Admiralty, February* 24, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th instant, and to previous correspondence respecting the proposed visit of Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier to Morocco city, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to the Marquess of Salisbury that the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean has been informed that Sir A. Nicolson has postponed his visit for fifteen days, at the request of the Moorish Government, and will not embark at Tangier until the 23rd March.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 67.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 26.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 26, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 5, I should be glad to be informed whether the French Minister or others at Tangier are aware of the scheme suggested by the Spanish Minister.

I hear of further important negotiations between Spain and France, and will report as soon as I can verify my information.

No. 68.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 27.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 27, 1896.

SPAIN, France, and Morocco: telegram No. 7 from your Lordship.

It is possible that the French Minister here may know about the Spanish Minister's scheme, but I was informed of it in a strictly confidential manner, and that it had been communicated to none of my colleagues.

As I was asked especially to keep the matter an absolute secret, I have not felt myself justified in inquiring on the above point.

No. 69.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 29.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, February* 29, 1896, 2·40 P.M.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, with reference to your telegram No. 33, that Baron von Marschall understands that negotiations are going on between France and Spain with regard to Morocco, on the basis of pecuniary assistance to be given by France, but not that an alliance has been concluded between the two countries. That such negotiations are possible is a proof that the Cuban insurrection, which costs 1,000,000 fr. a-day, has reduced Spain to a desperate financial condition.

No. 70.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 29, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 13 of the 3rd instant, inclosing correspondence with Her Majesty's Consul at Daralbaida with regard to the accusations which the Moorish authorities have brought against Cid Bubker, a British protégé, of assisting the rebellious tribe of Rahamna.

I approve the instructions on this subject which you addressed, on the 2nd instant, to Mr. Consul Maclean.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 71.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 29, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 15 of the 4th instant, forwarding correspondence with the Grand Vizier on the subject of the measures which the Moorish Government propose to take against the Riffians implicated in the plunder of the "Virgen de los Angeles."

I approve the note which you addressed to the Vizier, on the 4th instant, with regard to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 72.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 29, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 21 of the 14th instant, inclosing correspondence with Cid Mahommed Torres with regard to the formalities which the Moorish Government desire to have observed in the performance of commercial transactions.

I approve the action which you have taken in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 73.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 1, 1896.

WITH regard to negotiations between Spain and France respecting Morocco I am fairly certain that the Spanish Minister here is ignorant of them. The extension of French influence, both in the vicinity of Tangier and in the districts lying between the Algerian frontier and Fez, cause him some apprehension.

No. 74.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 56.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February* 29, 1896.

I TOLD Baron von Marschall this morning that your Lordship had asked me whether I had any knowledge of an alliance between France and Spain, and that I gathered from the telegrams which your Lordship had been good enough to forward to me that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid appeared to gather his information from a conversation with his German colleague.

Baron von Marschall said that M. de Radowitz had reported that negotiations were being carried on between the French and Spanish Governments with regard to the Moroccan questions, and more especially that of Tuat. The fact that Spain, who had always regarded questions concerning Morocco as one of national interest, should consent to negotiate upon them in return for pecuniary assistance, was a proof of the deplorable condition of Spanish finance.

On my asking Baron von Marschall whether it was likely that the French market was in a position to provide the amount of money which Spain would require, his Excellency said that France would no doubt make considerable sacrifices in order to extend her dominions in Northern Africa, and that the resources of Spain had been so seriously crippled by her unsuccessful attempts to put down the Cuban insurrection, that she might be compelled to make important concessions to France in return for the pecuniary assistance of which she stood in immediate need, and which she could not obtain elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 75.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 24. Secret.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 19, 1896.

HAVING alluded in the course of conversation with the Spanish Minister to the instability of the political situation in this country, M. de Ojéda said he would like to tell me, in the strictest confidence, what had passed during his recent visit to Madrid. The question of Morocco had been discussed at considerable length with him, both by the Queen-Regent and by Her Ministers, and he had thought it right to impress on them the precarious political situation of this country, a situation which would, he felt convinced, be a source of the greatest danger to Spain on the outbreak of any European complications. Spain wished to remain neutral during such events, and she could very well afford to do so in any question of purely European or Eastern interest; but were Morocco to be drawn into the field of action, Spain would have to take immediate steps to safeguard at all costs her interests in this country, which were of supreme importance to her. Spain was not a strong Power, and she would naturally, if she were forced to take an active part, range

herself alongside the Power or Powers who would be most useful to her. Nevertheless it would be preferable if she could remain neutral, and with this object it would be prudent to devise in time some measures which would insure, so far as was possible, the exclusion of Morocco from the sphere of action.

He had been requested by his Government to submit a Report on this point, and he had suggested that the best solution would be for the European Powers to come to an arrangement in regard to the future of this country. He had proposed that the safest plan would be a definition of the limits of Morocco, and then a collective guarantee of the *status quo* within those limits. Morocco should in a measure be neutralized, and Spain, as the country most directly interested and not powerful enough to arouse suspicion or cause umbrage, should be intrusted in the case of war with the guardianship of that neutrality. He meant by this that should war break out Spain should be empowered to station a fleet in Tangier Bay and take other necessary precautions for insuring the observance of the neutrality.

This proposal had been approved by his Government, who were ready to submit it to foreign Powers when an opportune moment for its consideration might occur.

He told me he had not mentioned the above, nor did he intend to mention it, to any of my colleagues, and he therefore begged me to consider it strictly confidential.

I did not sound M. de Ojéda as to whether the project had been discussed with the French Ambassador at Madrid, and whether the latter intended to consult his Government with regard to it. I did not consider myself justified in entering into these points with M. de Ojéda, and on which he may very possibly be in ignorance, and I refrained from offering any remarks on the communication which he had made to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 76.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 19, 1896.

I RECEIVED this morning through Kaïd Maclean a message from the Grand Vizier, informing me that the entry of the Sultan into Morocco city had been unexpectedly delayed, and His Majesty would therefore be much obliged if I would postpone my visit for fifteen days. His Excellency told Kaïd Maclean that he was anxious to give me a proper reception, but as the Sultan would reach his capital a little later than had been anticipated, it would place them in a difficult position if I arrived at the date originally fixed. I requested Kaïd Maclean to inform the Grand Vizier, in reply, that although all arrangments had been made for my leaving Tangier on the 9th March, I would, in deference to His Majesty's wishes, postpone my departure till the 23rd March, so as to arrive at Mogador on the 30th of that month.

The Grand Vizier is anxious to complete the settlement of affairs with the tribes in the neighbourhood of Morocco city, and does not wish that the Sultan should enter his capital till those questions are concluded. I told Kaïd Maclean to give the Vizier to understand that I could make no further change, and that the arrangement for my disembarkation at Mogador on the 30th March must be considered as final.

I would therefore propose to leave Tangier on the evening of the 23rd March, and should be ready for re-embarkation at Mazagan on the 6th May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 77.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 20, 1896.

THE French Minister spoke to me, with some animation, yesterday as to the action of the Moorish Government in keeping under arrest at the camp of the Sultan some individuals belonging to tribes in the Tuat Oasis. These individuals belong to the tribe alluded to in my despatch to your Lordship No. 15 of the 4th November last. M. de Monbel said that the Government of Algeria and the French Legation here had been anxious not to revive the question of Tuat with the Moorish Government, although this attitude on their part had been severely criticized in some organs of the French press. The Moorish Government apparently had regarded this pacific inaction as a sign of weakness, for they had dispatched some so-called Kaïds to the oasis and had seized some members of the tribes.

After the repeated and decisive warnings which had been given to the Moorish Government that the French Government would not permit any interference with Tuat, and did not recognize a shadow of Moorish authority over that district, the recent action of the Shereefian Court was provocative and insulting. The result would be that the Algerian authorities would be forced to take such measures as would settle once and for all the question of the proprietorship of the oasis. He had addressed a sharp note to the Grand Vizier in regard to the detention of the prisoners, and had referred the matter to his Government. I asked if he had demanded the release of the prisoners, and he replied that he had made no demand, pending instructions from his Government, but had merely informed the Vizier that the Moorish Government were incurring a very grave responsibility.

M. de Monbel said that no one was more anxious than himself to see a strong and orderly Government established in Morocco, and to scrupulously observe the independence of the country; but Tuat was quite outside of the sphere of Moorish influence, and any claim on the part of the Sultan to it was quite inadmissible.

M. de Monbel did not invite any opinion from me, so I refrained from expressing one. He said that the Moorish Government would probably speak to me on the subject on my visit to Court, and he wished to acquaint me with the views of the French Legation before my departure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 78.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 21, 1896.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No .14 of the 10th instant relative to an application from Mr. Ashplant for some mineral Concessions and for a grant of land at Cape Juby.

I am strongly ofopinion that it would be undesirable for this Legation to move at all in the matter of these Concessions, as there would be no hope of inducing the Sultan to give his consent to them, and any interest shown by this Legation in them might be misconstrued and regarded with suspicion.

With respect to the grant of land at Cape Juby there might be no objection to applying for such if Mr. Ashplant gave assurances that the privilege would only be exercised in legitimate purposes of trade and furnished some particulars as to what the nature of his trade was to be. At the same time, 20 acres of land seems to be considerably more than can be required for the erection of "suitable stores and dwellings" as mentioned in the Agreement, and it would be advisable if an application were made for a far more limited area.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 79.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 7.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke reporting the arrest in Tetuan by a body of armed Spanish police of some prisoners who had escaped from Ceuta. The Moorish authorities appear to have concurred in these proceedings, as the prisoners were lodged in the Moorish gaol prior to being conveyed back again to Ceuta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Tetuan, February* 22, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday eight or nine armed Spaniards of the "Compañia de Mar," under a petty officer, arrived here from Ceuta in pursuit of some escaped prisoners.

I am informed that they found the fugitives in the "Fedan" (the large square in the town), loaded their rifles and presenting them at the men ordered them to lie down and captured them.

The prisoners were lodged in the Moorish prison for the night and have this morning been taken off to Ceuta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 80.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 7.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 1, 1896.

THE Spanish Minister informed me this morning that he had addressed, on the 6th ultimo, a note to the Moorish Government reminding them that on the 24th ultimo, the delimitation of the neutral zone at Mellila should commence, and asking them what steps they proposed to take with that object. He had received no reply to this communication, and though he was ready to attribute the non-compliance with Treaty obligations to the preoccupations of the Moorish Government in respect to their difficulties with malcontent tribes, still he did not disguise from himself that there was little likelihood, even now that the country was comparatively pacified, that any serious measures would be taken for commencing the work of the delimitation and evacuation of the neutral zone.

With respect to the indemnity, the payment of which was overdue, M. de Ojéda said he was not uneasy, remarking that Spain had some ships of war and Morocco some Custom-houses; and that though the payment might be considerably delayed, it would be eventually made. I do not think that while the Cuban difficulty remains unsettled, the Spanish Government intend to exercise any serious pressure for the termination of these pending questions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 81.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 7.)

(No. 30. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 1, 1896.

I HAD another conversation this morning with the Spanish Minister in regard to the condition of affairs in this country, and I told him that, from information I had received, it would appear that several villages in the neighbourhood of Laraiche, and I believed also in the vicinity of Tangier, had recently placed themselves under the protection of the young Shereefs of Wazzan, who were residing here. I said I had questioned the French Minister on the subject, and he had replied that he had heard that the two Shereefs in question, the "Tangier Shereefs" as he termed them to distinguish them from their relatives residing in Wazzan, had established one or two "Azeibs," farming stations, in the Laraiche district; but he affected to treat the matter as one of very slight importance. I informed M. de Ojéda that I had received the names of twelve douars or villages, which had placed themselves under the protection of the Wazzan Shereefs, which practically amounted to obtaining French protection. It was natural, I said, that M. de Monbel should minimize these proceedings, and I should be glad to hear what he thought of them.

M. de Ojéda said he had received similar information, and that he was not at all surprised that the French Legation should take advantage of the facilities afforded to it by its relations with the Shereefs to extend its influence whenever an opportunity offered itself. It was not only in the Laraiche district that the French influence was extending, but the officers of the Spanish Military Mission had drawn his attention to the fact that Algerians had been, during the last few years, settled in villages on the road from Oudjda on the Algerian frontier towards Fez, and it might be said that a line of what could be termed outposts was now established from the frontier to the capital. He considered that this was of some importance and showed that the French Legation was fairly active. He had, he added, recently received a private letter from the head of the African Department in the Madrid Foreign Office, asking him as to whether there was any truth in the report that the French Government were about to take the district of Wazzan under their protectorate. He had replied that he did not see any necessity for the formal proclamation of a fact which already existed, and that as France now enjoyed all the advantages which could be derived from a protectorate over Wazzan, he did not believe she would care to take any further steps for openly asserting her position.

He considered that the action of France in this country required very careful watching; and it was in view of the possible dangers which might eventually arise from her activity, that he was anxious to see the European Powers definitely settle the position of Morocco, and mutually guarantee the *status quo* even at the cost of abandoning Tuat, which could be regarded as lost to this Empire. I asked him if he thought France would concur, assuming she occupied Tuat, in guaranteeing the integrity of this country in some such manner as he had formerly sketched out to me. He replied that he saw no reason why she should not be disposed to do so, though he had no knowledge of what her views were on the subject.

The general impression left on me by my conversation with M. de Ojéda, was that he had not communicated his scheme of the neutralization of Morocco to the French Minister; and that he is uneasy at the spread of French influence in this country through the intermediary of the Shereefs of Wazzan. So far as M. de Ojéda is concerned I feel fairly confident that he is ignorant of any overtures to France for an understanding in regard to this country. His view is, and he has frequently insisted upon it with me, that France, Spain, and Great Britain should work together and in harmony in all Moorish affairs; and that Spain should always mantain close contact with Great Britain in all matters relating to this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 82.

British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

My Lord, 55, *New Broad Street, London, March* 9, 1896.

THE Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society having heard that Sir Arthur Nicolson, Her Majesty's Representative in Morocco, is about to proceed to the Moorish Court, consider that the opportunity should not be lost of impressing upon the Sultan the desirability of taking steps for the abolition of the slave trade in Morocco and for the closing of the slave markets in the towns of that country.

The Committee would remind your Lordship that some years ago, when a Deputation from their body visited Morocco, Sir John Hay used his great influence with the Sultan to put a stop to the open sale of slaves in the streets of all seaport towns, a measure which has been, more or less, in force since that date, though latterly there has been reason to believe that in some of the more southern ports slaves are still bought and sold openly.

I am therefore desired to call your Lordship's attention to a statement upon this subject in an editorial article of the "Al-Moghreb-al-Aksa" of 8th February, 1896 (published at Tangier), as follows:—

"Slave-dealing, tyranny, and oppression to death form the rule of this unfortunate country.

"Twelve years ago, owing to the repeated endeavours of the Anti-Slavery Society, public sales of slaves at Tangier and the coast ports were repressed. But practically, with the exception of Tangier, public sales are going on without restriction all over the Empire, and slave-dealing is almost unchanged. Unfortunately sales are heard of at one place or another every now and then, and even here, at the residence of the Representatives of the Christian nations, the nefarious trade is carried on privately.

"At the moment it seems that Alkazar Kebir in our neighbourhood is becoming an active market, and that several sales have taken place there during the last few weeks. 'La Cronica' says that Sid Thami Eslawi, the United States Consular Agent at that place, bought a young and very fine negress, and to get her out of slavery gave her full liberty by notarial documents, and that he was endeavouring to purchase a mixed breed boy for the same purpose. While fully appreciating the good wishes and noble action of Sid Eslawi, we are of opinion that paying for a slave is nothing more or less than encouraging the trade which will keep the human flesh traffic alive, and the horrors of the journey of these poor girls and boys across the hot sands from the Soudan to Morocco will be thus allowed to persist unchecked. To follow the good course long adopted by the British Anti-Slavery Society all possible restriction should be opposed to public or private sales, while the evil is not definitely stricken at the root in this country, and the shameful traffic, as well as the tyrannic oppression ruling white men in our midst, are extirpated for ever."

I might also inform your Lordship that during a visit to Morocco early in 1892 I found a report current that the Sultan had given a verbal promise to the late Sir W. Kirby Green that he would take steps to close all the slave-markets in the interior. The lamented death of Her Majesty's Representative would appear to have put a stop to any such good work being carried out.

Since that time no official steps would appear to have been taken to urge upon the Sultan the importance of putting a stop to the cruel and infamous slave-trade which is still carried on between the western Soudan and Morocco, whilst the Committee cannot but feel anxious lest the late acquisition of further territory to the south of Morocco by the Sultan, with the assistance of Her Majesty's Government, will greatly tend to facilitate the importation of slaves into that Empire.

The Committee would therefore ask that the attention of Sir Arthur Nicolson should be specially directed to obtaining from the Sultan a Treaty for the suppression of the slave trade and for making illegal the buying and selling of slaves, as has been done in Egypt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. H. ALLEN, *Secretary.*

No. 83.

Memorandum by Mr. Streatfeild on the letter from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, dated March 9, 1896.

THE following is a very short summary of what has passed with regard to slavery in Morocco since 1883.

Her Majesty's Government have no grounds for interference founded on Convention, but they have on various occasions appealed to the Sultan in the interests of humanity.

Confidential No. 4914, pp. 8, 9 Correspondence relating to the Slave Trade.

In 1883 Acting Consul-General White was instructed to make a strong representation to the Moorish Government in the above sense, and ask them whether the time had not arrived when the Sultan would be ready to take steps to abolish slavery in his dominions.

Acting Consul-General White, No. 6, Africa, August 13; No. 7, Africa, September 11, 1883.

In reply to Mr. White's representation, the Vizier stated that the Sultan had taken the appeal made to him into his serious consideration, but that the peculiar circumstances in which the country was placed rendered it extremely difficult to abolish an institution which had from ancient times taken a deep root in Morocco, and which was regarded by the inhabitants as connected with their religion.

The Vizier added that the subject was one of deep interest to His Majesty, who would bear in mind the recommendations of Her Majesty's Government.

Confidential No. 5165, Correspondence relating to the Slave Trade, pp. 26–32. Sir J. D. Hay, No. 2, Africa, February 5, 1884.

In the following year Sir J. D. Hay also addressed a strong remonstrance to the Moorish Government against the continuance of slavery in Morocco, which, he informed them, was opposed to public opinion, rendered the Moorish Government most unpopular, and might eventually jeopardize their existence as a State.

Sir J. D. Hay, No. 6, Africa, June 9, 1884.

Sir J. D. Hay also suggested that the sale of slaves by public auction should be put a stop to.

In the course of a lengthy reply the Moorish Government stated that the abolition of slavery could not be effected, but in the following June orders were sent by the Sultan to the Governors of towns to put a stop to the sale of slaves by public auction.

British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, April 2, 1886. Confidential No. 5375, p. 28. Affairs of North Africa.

In 1886 the Anti-Slavery Soceity called attention to some of the abuses arising from misgovernment in Morocco, more especially in connection with the Slave Trade and the open slave markets in the interior, and urged the removal of the seat of the various Legations to one of the capital cities of the interior.

Sir J. D. Hay, No. 24, May 13, 1886. Confidential No. 5375, p. 40, Affairs of North Africa; and Confidential No. 5459, p. 249, Correspondence relating to the Slave Trade.

Sir J. D. Hay, in his observations on the above communication, gave reasons in favour of, as well as against, the removal of the Legations. He also suggested that the Great Powers should come to an undstanding regarding the maintenance of the independence and integrity of Morocco, and that in such case the Sultan should be given clearly to understand that the Powers could no longer allow the institution of slavery to exist.

Sir W. K. Green also exerted himself to put a stop to slavery in Morocco.

To Sir W. K. Green, No. 2, Africa, January 15, 1887. Sir W. K. Green, No. 5, Africa, June 24, 1887, Confidential No. 5616, p. 302, Correspondence relating to the Slave Trade.

In an audience which he had with the Sultan in 1887 His Shereefian Majesty observed that the Moors treated their slaves quite differently from other people, and that consequently the institution of slavery in Morocco did not call for reform or change. Sir K. Green added that from the few words which passed between himself and the Sultan on this subject, he saw that no advantage was to be derived by a discussion of the general question of slavery.

Anti-Slavery Society, March 22; to ditto, March 29, 1888. Confidential No. 5896, p. 603.

In the following year the Anti-Slavery Society suggested that the question of slavery should be brought before the Morocco Conference, but they were told that Slave Trade questions did not fall within the scope of the Conference.

Hansard, vol. ccclii, p. 488.

In May 1891 Mr. S. Smith drew attention in the House of Commons to a statement made by the Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, alleging that a caravan of 2,000 slaves had been sold at a fair at Lendouf.

Baron de Worms (for Sir J. Fergusson) observed that it was unfortunately the fact that, notwithstanding the promises made to Sir J. D. Hay in 1884, sales of slaves by public auction still continued in Morocco, but that Sir Charles Euan-Smith would be instructed to endeavour to secure the observance of those promises.

Confidential No. 5272, pp. 51–54, Correspondence respecting Morocco.

Sir C. Euan-Smith was then instructed to report as to the extent to which slavery and the Slave Trade were still permitted in Morocco, and could be safely modified or curtailed under the orders of the Sultan.

Sir C. Euan-Smith, No. 29, Confidential. February 13, 1892.

Sir C. Euan-Smith replied as follows:—

"Fourthly, with regard to the question of slavery and the Slave Trade in Morocco.

"Notwithstanding the natural eagerness of a great portion of the British public to witness the abolition of slavery and the Slave Trade throughout the whole world, I am convinced that, in the Empire of Morocco especially, *any attempt at undue pressure or hurried action in a matter so intervoven with the daily life and religious opinions of this country would defeat its own ends.* I would, therefore, in the first instance, request authority to press only for the abolition of slave-markets and the prohibition of public slave-selling in the towns near the coast, over which we can exercise some efficient supervision.

"And I would, further, press for the entire prohibition of the import of eunuchs into any ports of His Majesty's dominions.

"The circumstances under which these poor creatures are prepared for the market, are marked by the most revolting cruelty, and as the employment of eunuchs is contrary to the law of the Koran, I have but little doubt that the Sultan would grant this concession to public opinion.

"Should His Majesty show any willingness to close the public slave-markets throughout his Empire, advantage might be taken of such a disposition upon his part, but I would for the present advise that nothing should be done which would touch even the fringe of the great question of domestic slavery and the legitimate sources, according to the Koran, from which it is supplied.

"Here, again, I would rather trust to the slow but certain influences which would be brought into existence as the results of the Commercial Treaty, which it would be the main object of my mission to obtain from the good-will of His Shereefian Majesty."

Confidential No. 6272, p. 72.

Lord Salisbury then approved of Sir C. Euan-Smith endeavouring to obtain from the Sultan the abolition of the slave markets, and the prohibition of the public sale of slaves in the towns near the coast.

No. 2, Africa, March 10; No. 4, Africa, July 19; No. 5, Africa, November 7, 1892. Confidential No. 6290, p. 31.

Besides several despatches in his African series on the state of slavery in Morocco, the following despatch was addressed to this Office by Sir C. Euan-Smith in July 1892:—

"No. 129.)

"My Lord, "*Camp at Meshra Erumlah, July*, 19, 1892.

"I have the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that at the second interview which I had with His Majesty the Sultan, I submitted to His Majesty, in the most friendly and conciliatory manner, the desirability of his making a further concession to public opinion in Europe regarding the question of slavery by issuing a public prohibition against the public sale of slaves in the coast towns in his dominions.

"I pointed out to the Sultan that the Anti-Slavery Conference at Brussels had attracted universal attention to the evils of slavery and the Slave Trade, and that the Empire of Morocco had been especially animadverted upon in the columns of the European press as the one country in the world in which the public sale of slaves was still openly carried on and encouraged by the Government. I assured His Majesty that there was no *intention whatever on the part of Her Majesty's Government to interfere with the institution of domestic slavery*, and that the demand which was now made upon His Majesty for the issue of the requisite prohibition was really made in His Majesty's own interests.

"The Sultan at first showed a very unyielding disposition to concede what was requested of him, but in the course of the next two or three interviews he apparently gave way, and he said that he would give the necessary orders for letters to be written to the Governors of all the coast towns, directing them not to allow the public sale of slaves in any of the towns in their jurisdiction.

"On the 13th July, after I had left Fez, the Minister of Foreign Affairs submitted to me the draft of the letters which it was proposed to issue. I found that these letters merely instructed the Governors to prevent the sale of slaves 'among the shops and in the streets,' and to have such sales restricted to some places specially allotted for that purpose.

"I informed the Minister that, in my opinion, these instructions could not be considered as satisfactory.

"They virtually contemplated the institution of open slave-markets upon the coast, and would therefore increase instead of limiting the evil already complained of.

"The Minister said he would inform the Sultan of the objection which I had taken to the letters, and would ask for others of a more satisfactory character, but I have heard nothing since from him upon the subject.

"In another despatch I have brought to your Lordship's notice that slaves have been publicly sold at the ports of Saffi and Mazagan, and that, in the former place, such sales had been accompanied by circumstances of much cruelty.

"I have, &c.
(Signed) "C. B. EUAN-SMITH."

To Sir W. Ridgeway, No. 1, Africa, January 31, 1893.

In January 1893 Sir W. Ridgeway was instructed to lose no opportunity of pressing the question of slavery upon the Sultan of Morocco.

Anti-Slavery Society, May 26, 1893.

In the following May the Anti-Slavery Society called attention to the continued activity of the Slave Trade in Morocco.

Sir W. Ridgeway, No. 4, Africa. June 16, 1893. Ibid., No. 109, July 10, 1893. Confidential No. 6448, pp. 26, 27, Correspondence respecting Morocco.

Sir W. Ridgeway, who was instructed to report on the matter, embodied his reply in the general Report which he sent home on the termination of his mission.

This Report contained the following passage with regard to slavery :—

"*Slavery.*

"About one twenty-fifth of the entire population of Morocco are slaves, though many of them are to all intents and purposes free.

"The Sultan is by far the greatest slave-owner in the country. He possesses large locations, or farms, where they are allowed to intermarry. After satisfying his own requirements in the way of servants and concubines, he sells the surplus stock.

"Other rich men who own a number of slaves follow his example, and this is the principal source of supply for the slave-markets throughout Morocco. Families are sold in one lot, or separately, whichever appears the more profitable course. Slaves as a rule are well treated (the Sultan's being an exception), it being to the interest of their masters that they should be in good condition.

"They are generally contented, and if they consider themselves ill-treated they have the right to demand that they should be sold in the market. The beating of slaves is not considered ill-treatment unless it results in their being bed-ridden.

"They are never worked in gangs or driven by overseers, as used to be the case when slavery was an institution in America.

"There are public markets in which slaves are sold in every town and district excepting in those coast ports where Europeans reside, and the sales are carried on privately.

"About 1,000 fresh slaves are introduced every year from the interior of Africa They are bought at Timbuctoo in exchange for European and Moroccan merchandize. Thence they are conveyed by caravans to Soos. The annual market at M'Gool in Soos is the principal depôt. They arrive thin-looking, but in pretty much the same condition as the people who bring them—the long desert journey being trying to slaves and freemen alike. Occasionally they are badly treated on the road—but it is to the self-interest of sellers that their human wares should be in good saleable condition.

"These slaves are generally quite young children. In Soos the average price of a young negress on her first arrival from the interior, who is quite healthy, and about 7 years old, would be 50 dollars. A boy under the same conditions, about 25 dollars. If sold again, almost immediately, in a town, a profit of about 30 per cent would be realized.

"Girls reach their best value—from 90 to 150 dollars—on arriving at a marriageable age.

"As a rule a lower-class Moor will purchase a quite young negress as an investment. During her childhood she will work for his wife and learn to perform household duties, and then when she arrives at the desired age he will sell her at a large profit.

"Merchants from all corners of Morocco attend the M'Gool market, some to buy on commission, some to invest on their own account.

"On his return to his own town or district the trader will warn the local Superintendent of the Slave-market of his approaching arrival, and will give a glowing account of his purchases in order to incite curiosity and expectancy.

"On arriving he will hawk his newly-acquired maidens round to the houses of rich people, and try to sell them privately at fancy prices. Failing in this he will place them on the market to be sold by auction.

"The principal points in a girl a purchaser looks to are her teeth and soundness in limb and body. They argue that bad teeth denote a feeble digestion and ailing health In boys they look for health, physical strength, and capability for work of a general or technical kind.

"Negroes and negresses (slaves) perform all the offices of servants in Europe.

"Another description of slavery applies to those girls who are stolen from country villages, or are taken in war, and afterwards sold as slaves. There are a considerable number of these, and some of them are very beautiful.

"They are usually bought to be used as concubines, and they are generally clever enough to make, comparatively speaking, good positions for themselves, often superior to that of legally married women.

"Their market value, when still virgins, amounts to sums varying from 200 to 1,000 dollars,

"Sometimes pilgrims on their return from the Prophet's tomb in Mecca will purcahse white

females in Stamboul, Egypt, or Tunis. They smuggle them into Morocco, often under the noses of European Consuls, as their wives. Once in the country they command a high price—from 300*l.* to 1,000*l.*—according to the extent of their charms and accomplishments.

"Sometimes these girls marry their masters—as happened to a Circassian, who is the favourite wife of the present Sultan, and was his slave, acquired by purchase, before she became his wife.

"There are not more than 150 eunuchs in Morocco, and they are all owned by the Sultan and his relations. They are immensely prized, and, consequently, spoilt and pampered. They live to great ages, and all of them have wonderful constitutions, probably because it is only the fittest who could have survived the frightful operation they have undergone.

"The mortality among slaves does not seem to differ with that of the other communities in Morocco, excepting in regard to boy slaves employed about the Royal Palaces. Numbers of these children die of pulmonary complaints, the result of semi-starvation, cold, general neglect, and cruelty. They are quite at the mercy of the eunuchs, who are the hardest of all taskmasters.

"Masters are allowed by Korannic law to cohabit with their female slaves. If a female slave have a child by her master such child is free, and in the same position as his other children born to his wives. The mother cannot be sold, and becomes free on the death of her master.

"Were slavery in Morocco abolished, 300,000 people, thoroughly accustomed to being looked after, and provided for without any thought for themselves, would be homeless and resourceless.

"Slaves are admitted to the same privileges as free natives, and practice the Mahommedan religion.

"Moors contend that to own slaves is permitted by Korannic law, and that therefore those who seek to do away with the institution of slavery are attacking the religion of the country.

"Morocco did not sign the Brussels Convention, though Persia and Turkey did.

"About ten years ago British protégés were forbidden to hold slaves, and all such were supposed to be manumitted.

"Practically this order had no effect, as the slaves, when existent, remained as servants."

Sir W. Ridgeway also observed further on in his Report, that the slaves themselves would probably resist the abolition of domestic slavery. Confidential No. 6448, p. 28.

It appears from the foregoing that there is little chance of Sir A. Nicolson being able to negotiate the Treaty desired by the Anti-Slavery Society.

(Signed) FREDK. H. T. STREATFEILD.

Foreign Office, March 12, 1896.

No. 84.

Foreign Office to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, requesting, on behalf of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, that Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco might be instructed to endeavour to obtain from the Sultan a Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade in his dominions.

I am to state that his Lordship will not fail to instruct Sir A. Nicolson to bear the subject in mind, and to take any favourable opportunity of acting on the instructions given to his predecessors in Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 85.

Foreign Office to Mr. D. Ashplant.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 11th ultimo in regard to the concessions between the River Nun and Cape Bojador, in which you are interested, and your wish to obtain a grant of land at Cape Juby for building and trading purposes, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has reported that, with regard to the mineral concessions, he considers that it will not be possible to induce the Sultan to give his consent to them.

With regard to the grant of land at Cape Juby, Sir A. Nicolson is of opinion that before he can make an application for them to the Moorish Government, you should

give assurances that the privilege would only be exercised for legitimate purposes of trade, and furnish some particulars as to what the nature of your trade would be.

I am accordingly to request that you will give the assurances and particulars required, and I am to add that, as 20 acres of land appears to be considerably more than can be required for the erection of "suitable stores and dwellings," as mentioned in the Agreement, it would be desirable if your application were reduced to a far more limited area.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 86.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Tangier, Mar h* 7, 1896.

FROM the last news received from the camp of the Sultan, it would appear that His Majesty was within a few hours' march of Morocco City; and no doubt by this time he has entered his capital. Before advancing from the district of the Rahamnas, a final lesson was given to this tribe in a manner which is characteristic of the mode in which the Moorish Government deals with those who have incurred its displeasure, and who are within its power. A strong force of troops with four mountain and four Gardner guns, under the command of the Minister of War, was despatched against some Rahamna villages, who having received the pardon of the Sultan, imagined they were safe from further persecution. The troops fell suddenly on the villages, killed sixty of the men, made some 500 prisoners, and after burning the villages, brought all the women, children, and live stock into the royal camp. There are now some 3,000 prisoners in the camp, and the several tribes have been informed that they may ransom their friends on payment of a certain sum. It is believed that most of the tribes will act upon this proposal.

Kaid Maclean expressed a hope to the Grand Vizier that some measures would be taken for the proper treatment of the women and children; and his Excellency promised to see that they were taken care of, and that huts were built for them. I have asked Kaid Maclean, should an opportunity present itself, to suggest to the Vizier that now that the Government have given unmistakable signs of their power and authority, moderation should be shewn and fair treatment accorded to the prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 87.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 9, 1896.

A LOCAL Spanish newspaper here having published an article commenting on some reports in the European press as to an alleged understanding between France and Spain in regard to affairs in this country, I took the opportunity of asking the Spanish Minister whether there was any truth in these rumours.

M. de Ojéda replied that, so far as he was aware, they were quite groundless; and that he considered it would be contrary both to the policy and interests of his country that any understanding should be arranged with respect to Morocco to which England was not also a party.

I asked him if any negotiations were passing in Paris with respect to a loan; and he replied that this was probable, but that discussion with regard to a loan was an old story, and had nothing to do with Morocco.

M. de Ojéda repeated again, what he has on several previous occasions remarked to me, that Spain, England, and France should act together in Morocco. Spain, he said, was most anxious to preserve the *status quo;* her interests in Morocco were so

great that any change in the existing condition of things would be of vital importance to her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 88.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1896.

PAYMENT of money for Cape Juby transfer.

I should be glad to learn whether you have any news on the subject.

No. 89.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 17, 1896.

CAPE JUBY money: telegram No 10 from your Lordship.

I heard, under date of the 28th ultimo, that an escort had left the camp of the Sultan for Morocco City to fetch the money, but I have no news that it has actually been despatched from there.

In my last letter, dated the 7th instant from His Majesty's camp, I am informed that the money would be sent at once.

I think it would be well if interest at the rate of 6 per cent. be demanded on this payment for the term included between the date of Agreement and its actual delivery at Tangier.

No. 90.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1896.

I TRANSMIT to you, herewith a copy of a letter from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,* suggesting that advantage should be taken of your approaching visit to the Moorish Court to endeavour to obtain from the Sultan a Treaty for the abolition of the Slave Trade in his dominions.

A copy of a Memorandum which has been drawn up in this Office is also inclosed, from which you will observe the steps taken, and the views held in regard to this matter by Her Majesty's Representatives in Morocco since the year 1883.

I have to request that you will bear the subject in mind, and take any favourable opportunity of acting on the instructions given to your predecessors.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 91.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 19, 1896.

CAPE JUBY money. My telegram No. 10 of the 17th instant.

The money should have reached the coast on the 17th instant, as it left Morocco City on the 11th for a coast port.

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* No. 82.

No. 91*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 19, 1896.

IN reply to your telegrams of the 17th and 19th instant on the subject of the payment of the Cape Juby purchase-money, I have to observe that, as the delay in payment is getting the Company into difficulties, the most important thing is to obtain the money.

It seems only fair, as the Company are paying interest themselves, that the Moorish Government should be asked to pay interest, but the Company especially desire that this claim should not be put forward in such a way as would be likely to cause the payment of the principal to be delayed.

No. 92.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 20, 1896.

CAPE JUBY money: telegram No 11 from your Lordship.

I think payment of the money may be considered as assured, as it has been sent from Morocco City. Vice-Consul at Mazagan has been instructed to have it sent on here by the first opportunity.

When at the Court I would suggest my requesting interest at 6 per cent. for half-a-year on the money, after I hear that the Legation has the principal safely in its hands.

No. 93.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 29.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 31 of the 7th instant, reporting the subjugation of the tribe of Rahamnas by the Sultan of Morocco and the imprisonment of many of their number in the Royal camp.

I approve the communication which you have made to Kaïd Maclean with regard to the treatment of these prisoners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 94.

Foreign Office to the North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1896.

WITH reference to the verbal communication made to the representative of your Company at this Office yesterday, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, stating that the payment of the balance of the Cape Juby purchase-money may, in his opinion, be considered assured, since it has now left Morocco city.

Sir A. Nicolson has instructed the British Vice-Consul at Mazagan to forward it to Tangier by the first opportunity; and he suggests that, as soon as he hears of its having been safely deposited at Her Majesty's Legation, he should, on his arrival at the Moorish Court, demand payment of interest for six months at the rate of 6 per cent., on account of the delay which has taken place in the payment.

Lord Salisbury is ready to authorize Sir A. Nicolson to act in this manner if the Company should think it desirable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 95.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 33. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 14, 1896.

FROM information which I have received from the camp of the Sultan, but not through my usual channel, it would appear that the French Legation has been reviving the question of a French supervision over the external relations of Morocco, and that Dr. Linares, the French Agent attached to the Court, was sent with letters to the Grand Vizier on the subject. I am told that the letters referred to the interference of the Moorish authorities in Tuat, and pointed out that if no difficulties were made as to the surrender of that oasis—and it is reported that the cession of Figuig was also mentioned—the French Government would be inclined to withdraw their Consul from Fez. The French Legation, it is said, reproached the Vizier in their communication for not having accepted the proposals made by the French Minister during his visit at Fez last year with regard to French control over Moorish foreign affairs, and for the general neglect shown in the treatment of questions in which French interests were engaged.

Dr. Linares was given to understand that, in view of the opinions held by the foreign Representatives on the subject, the Moorish Government did not wish to come to any arrangement of the above nature.

Dr. Linares, my informant states, thereupon left the camp for Morocco city, giving evident signs of displeasure and annoyance.

The Spanish Minister, who was calling on me yesterday, read me portions of a letter he had just received from the Spanish Agent at the Court, in which reference was made to the visit of Dr. Linares, and in which it was stated that he had left the camp apparently much displeased with his reception.

I am inclined to doubt the accuracy of the information which has been sent to me in regard to a proposed cession of Figuig, and I should not like to accept unreservedly the report that the French Legation had returned to the question of controlling the foreign relations of this country. I should be more disposed to connect the object of the mission of Dr. Linares with the representations which the French Minister informed me he had made in respect to the detention of some Tuat prisoners in the camp of the Sultan, and it is possible that the opportunity was taken of pointing out to the Vizier the imprudence of not confiding in the friendly assurances and offers which had been previously made, and of adopting a line of action which was provocative and contentious. This is merely a surmise on my part, and I shall probably hear something more definite on the subject on my arrival at Court.

If the Vizier has assumed an unyielding attitude in regard to French remonstrances as to the Tuat prisoners, I do not think he is pursuing a wise policy, as such a treatment of the question may only hasten some more active measures on the part of the French authorities.

I am afraid that the recent successes of the Vizier with local tribes have rendered him over-confident in the strength and stability of the Moorish Government, as I believe his sense of proportion is not very acute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 96.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 34. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 16, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 33, Confidential, of the 14th instant, I have the honour to state that the French Minister told me that he desired to inform me of an annoying incident which had occurred between the Grand Vizier and Dr. Linares. M. de Monbel said that he had sent the latter with some letters to Court, with instructions to hand them to the Vizier. Dr. Linares had arrived at the camp and had requested the Vizier to grant him an interview. His Excellency being much occupied on that day had informed Dr. Linares that he would see him on the following afternoon; but the latter took umbrage at this postponement and left the camp without delay.

M. de Monbel said that he had received a letter from the Grand Vizier complaining of this discourtesy on the part of Dr. Linares, and that he had informed his Excellency, in reply, that he also regretted that the doctor had been somewhat hypersensitive.

M. de Monbel added that he wished to explain to me the incident, which in itself was of small importance, as I might possibly hear a distorted version of it when I arrived at Court.

I was rather surprised at M. de Monbel spontaneously mentioning the matter to me, as he is generally exceedingly reserved on the subject of his communications and relations with the Court. I mention the matter to your Lordship as it corroborates in a measure the information which was communicated to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 97.

North-West African Company to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

My Lord, 132, *Cheapside, London, March* 23, 1896.

THE Directors of the North-West African Company (Limited) instruct me to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 20th instant informing them of the telegram received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier respecting the payment of the balance of the Cape Juby purchase-money.

The suggestion of Sir A. Nicolson to claim interest upon the overdue payment as soon as he hears of its having been safely deposited at the Legation is entirely approved by the Directors, and they desire to thank your Lordship for the offer to instruct Sir A. Nicolson accordingly.

I am, &c.
North-West African Company (Limited)
(Signed) GEO. RAYNOR, *Secretary.*

No. 98.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 23, 1896.

I START to-day for the Court, visiting the coast ports *en route.*

I am taking cypher G.

No. 99.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1896.

HER Majesty's Government entirely approve the suggestion made in your telegram of the 20th instant, that you should demand payment of 6 per cent. interest for six months on the Cape Juby purchase-money.

No. 100.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Mazagan, March* 28, 1896.

CAPE JUBY. My telegram No. 12 of the 20th instant.

The money for the indemnity, which I have ascertained is already here, will shortly be forwarded to Tangier.

No. 101.

Foreign Office to the North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, stating that he has ascertained that the remaining instalment of the Cape Juby purchase-money has arrived at Mazagan, and will be forwarded to Tangier by an early opportunity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 102.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 3, 1896.

IT is reported in a newspaper published at Gibraltar that a British vessel from that port was attacked and plundered by Riffs on the 28th ultimo whilst becalmed at a distance of 30 miles to the south-east of Tetuan. The crew were seized and maltreated, but were set at liberty next day, and set sail for Gibraltar, which they reached on the 31st ultimo.

I am taking steps to obtain further particulars, and, in the meantime, I am forwarding to Sir Arthur Nicolson the newspaper containing the account of the attack.

No. 103.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 4.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 19, 1896.

I HAVE received information from the camp of the Sultan reporting that His Majesty entered Morocco City on the 7th instant, and was received with much enthusiasm by a great concourse of people. The Chief of the tribe of Rahamna, Umbark bu Sleman, who was recently captured by the troops of the Sultan, was placed in a cage on a camel immediately preceding His Majesty, so as to afford a visible sign of the establishment of the Shereefian authority. It is to be hoped that some relaxation will now be accorded in the treatment of this prisoner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 104.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 4.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 4, 1896.

MELILLA indemnity.

I learn from the Spanish Minister that a Spanish man-of-war is to proceed to Mazagan to receive the balance of the indemnity, which is now at that port, awaiting its arrival. He added that it was proposed by the Moorish Government to pay only a portion of the amount in gold, as was stipulated, and to pay the remainder in Spanish silver coin, with premium calculated at the rate current at the time of the Madrid Agreement, and in French silver coin at par, but that he had informed them that if the payment is not made entirely in gold, silver will be accepted only if the full premium on gold at the present rate is paid in addition. He also claimed the interest calculated up to the date of payment.

No real difficulty on these points is, however, anticipated by the Spanish Minister.

I have repeated the foregoing to Madrid.

No. 105.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 3, 1896.

IN continuation of my telegram No. 15 of this date, I have the honour to transmit herewith a cutting from the "Gibraltar Chronicle" of the 1st instant,* which is the only report that has yet reached me of the attack on the British falucho "San José," of Gibraltar, by Riffs on the 28th ultimo.

The vessel appears to have been at the time of the outrage becalmed about 3 miles from the shore at Alamos Bay, which is marked on the Intelligence Department Map, some 30 miles south-east of Tetuan. This district, though not actually in the Riff proper, is near the borders of that province.

I called upon Sid Hadj M. Torres and communicated to him the substance of the statement quoted in the "Gibraltar Chronicle," and I pointed out that as the outrage occurred so close to Tetuan it should be possible for him to obtain full particulars and to ascertain what villages took part in the attack.

His Excellency replied that he would take immediate steps in the matter, and promised to communicate to me such information as he might be able to obtain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 106.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 33.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 36 of the 3rd instant, relating to the attack by Riffs on the British falucho "San José" of Gibraltar.

The communication which you addressed to his Excellency Sid Hadj M. Torres on this subject is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 107.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Mazagan, March* 28, 1896.

Owing to bad weather I was obliged to postpone my departure from Tangier till the 25th instant, on which day I embarked on Her Majesty's ship "Arethusa," accompanied by Major White, R.A., and Mr. Irwin, Interpreter of the Legation. The condition of the sea rendered any communication with the ports of Laraiche and Rabat impossible, and, I therefore, proceeded direct to Casablanca. Both at that port and at Mazagan I found the Governors absent at Court, and their substitutes, who, in both instances were youthful relatives, received me with the customary formalities.

From what I could learn from British residents the surrounding country is quite peaceable, with the exception of the normal courier robberies between Dar-al-baida and Rabat. The commercial community complained of the diminution of business, and of its unprofitable nature during the last two years; but these facts are not surprising in view of the unsettled condition of the country since the death of the late Sultan. Now, that tranquillity has been restored, it is to be hoped that the people will resume their ordinary avocations, and that trade will revive.

I am leaving here this evening, and, as I hear that communication with Saffi is impracticable at this moment, I shall proceed to Mogador, and hope to reach Morocco City on the 5th proximo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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* Not printed.

No. 108.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 38.)
My Lord, *Mazagan, March* 28, 1896.

ON arriving at this port to-day I caused inquiries to be made of the Customs Administrators whether they had received the money destined for the payment of the Cape Juby indemnity, and which had been dispatched from Morocco City on the 11th instant. I was informed that the money had just arrived, and that they would forward it to Tangier at an early opportunity. I left word with them that the matter was urgent, and that I expected them to transmit the money with as little delay as possible.

I trust that I shall hear of its arrival in Tangier before I leave the Court, as it might be hazardous to present the claim for interest till the principal is out of the hands of the Moorish authorities.

I am told here that a considerable portion of the Melilla indemnity has also arrived for transmission to Tangier, and I fear lest a premature request for payment of interest might induce the Moorish Government to complete the Melilla indemnity from the money now ready on account of Cape Juby. The Moorish Government would be but too ready to pay, or to promise to pay, an interest of 6 per cent., and would then consider themselves at liberty to defer indefinitely the payment of the principal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 109.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 16, 1896.

CAPE JUBY indemnity.

Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 17 of the 30th ultimo.

I am informed by Sid Hadj M. Torres that on the 19th instant they will begin to count out the money that reached Tangier yesterday afternoon on account of this indemnity.

No. 110.

Foreign Office to the North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 16, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 31st ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier* stating that the Minister for Foreign Affairs informs him that the Cape Juby purchase money arrived at that place yesterday.

The counting of it will commence on the 19th May.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 111.

The North-West African Company to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 18.)

My Lord, 132, *Cheapside, E.C., April* 17, 1896.

I AM instructed to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 16th instant, and to express the thanks of the Directors for the information that the balance of the Cape Juby purchase money had arrived on the previous day at Tangier.

* No. 109.

The Directors would, however, draw your Lordship's attention to the unreasonable delay in the counting of the money, and would suggest that the telegram conveying the information may have given May instead of April in error.

I have, &c.
For the North-West African Company (Limited),
(Signed) GEO. RAYNOR.

No. 112.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1896.

DOES the counting of the Cape Juby purchase money, referred to in your telegram of the 16th instant, begin on the 19th instant or the 19th proximo? If it is the 19th proximo, what is the reason of the long interval?

No. 113.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 18, 1896.

CAPE Juby purchase money.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 13 of this date.

It is to-morrow, the 19th instant, that the counting is to begin.

No. 114.

Question asked in the House of Commons, April 20, 1896.

Mr. Joseph A. Peace,—to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether steps have been taken, or will now be taken, to secure that all food and other articles required during the British Minister's journey to and from the Sultan of Morocco's Court shall be paid for by the Mission, and so protect the natives of Morocco from the recurrence of acts of injustice which have accompanied similar missions in the past.

Answer.

Such stores as can be obtained from England for the British Missions and the Court of Morocco are paid for here. According to an ancient custom, however, fresh provisions and fodder are furnished daily by the Moorish Authorities, and any attempt to interfere with this custom would only give offence.

Steps are now taken to prevent any injustice resulting from its application. When Sir E. Satow went up to Fez in 1894, the Moorish Government appointed two officials to make payment to the villagers in the case of any hardship arising from the process of levy; and Sir A. Nicolson, who has already started, will doubtless see that similar precautions are observed.

No. 115.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 20, 1896.

ON the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, a telegram was addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier inquiring whether the date for the counting of the Cape Juby purchase-money had been accurately stated in his previous message.

I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a reply has been received from Mr. White saying that the counting commenced yesterday.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 116.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Camp, outside Morocco City, April* 9, 1896.

DURING my short stay at Mogador I was addressed both by letter and by deputation on the subject of the extension of the Jewish Mellah in that town.

I took an opportunity of personally visiting the Jewish quarter, and was shown one or two of the poorest houses. These houses, of several stories in height, were overcrowded to a deplorable degree, and were in a most unsatisfactory sanitary condition.

A walk through the Mellah was sufficient to show the urgent necessity of a new quarter being established. The Shereefian Court, it is true, has engaged to grant a concession for the extension of the Mellah, but the conditions which it has attached to its construction, render the favour nugatory.

The houses are to be built by the occupier or his landlord, and at the end of twenty years to become the property of the Moorish Government. No Jew, under this condition, is disposed to take advantage of the grant. I was assured by the deputation of the wealthier inhabitants, that if a waste site were granted to them, and the condition on building abrogated, no difficulty would arise in the way of the construction of a new Mellah.

At the same time it should be borne in mind, as was pointed out by Sir E. Satow in his despatch No. 75 of the 23rd July, 1894, that the wealthy Jew is supposed to be largely responsible for the present over-crowding, and would probably soon produce a similar condition of affairs in the new Mellah if stringent rules were not prescribed both as to the number of tenants each house was to hold and as to the amount of rent which the owner of a house might demand.

I was myself assailed in the Mellah by a vociferous crowd declaiming their rent grievances, to the evident embarrassment of my cicerone, who was, so I was informed, one of the most considerable landlords.

I would propose to suggest to the Court that a waste piece of land be accorded to the Jewish community for the purposes of building, without any condition as to the eventual proprietary rights of the Moorish Government. I would also, as suggested by Sir E. Satow, propose that a Rents Committee be instituted and suitable Regulations be enforced as to overcrowding and sanitary arrangements.

It was remarked to me that if a new Mellah were constructed Jews from neighbouring districts would flock into it. This, to some extent, might be prevented by the adoption of the Regulations I have indicated, though it is probable that considerable difficulty would arise from an immigration from the outlying districts. I was surprised to find in the three villages on our march small Jewish Mellahs.

Some of my staff visited one of them, and told me that it was a marvel that human beings could exist in the condition in which these unfortunate people were living.

I am afraid, however, that it would be beyond the power of any one to undertake a sanitary reform throughout this country, and I propose to limit my efforts to effecting some improvement, if possible, at Mogador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 117.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord, *Camp outside Morocco City, April* 9, 1896.

I ARRIVED this morning within a short distance of the gates of Morocco city, and am remaining in camp till the day after to-morrow, when I shall make the formal entry into the capital. To-morrow being Friday, the entry had to be postponed till the following day.

Throughout the journey from the coast the Mission has been exceedingly well received by the Kaïds of the several districts, and the Government appear to have done all in their power to make the march easy and agreeable.

I would propose to leave to Major White, R.A., the special officer attached to the Mission by the Governor of Gibraltar, to report on the main features and general condition of the country through which the Mission passed.

The country seemed fairly tranquil, though some examples were presented of the intertribal dissensions and the wild, untamed nature of the inhabitants. At one place the Kaïd of the district was unable to accompany me, as is customary, to the limits of his jurisdiction, as a portion of the tribe had intimated that should he and his men appear they would be opposed. I was received in the warmest manner by the malcontents, and I regret to have learnt since that the Kaïd having collected a sufficient force has inflicted a severe punishment on them, burning their houses and carrying off their women and herds. At another place my tribal escort having, in their eagerness to show me civility, overstepped their boundaries into the district of the adjoining tribe who were drawn up to receive me, an angry discussion ensued which at one time threatened to develop into a more serious affair, but which was eventually appeased by the energetic efforts of the escort sent by the Sultan. These and one or two other instances gave some glimpse into the lawless character of the inhabitants, though their courtesy and attention to the Mission were beyond all praise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 118.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Camp, outside Morocco City, April* 9, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 40 of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith a short Report by Major White, R.A., on the route which the Mission has followed from Mogador to this place.

I may add that Major White has made a careful study of the road we have traversed, the results of which he will embody in a later and fuller Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Major White to Sir A. Nicolson.

Camp, Ain Raha, 2 miles south-west of Morocco City,
Sir, *April* 9, 1896.

IN accordance with your instructions, I have the honour to submit a brief report on the journey of the Mission thus far.

2. *Tangier to Mogador, calling at Casablanca and Mazagan.*—These ports are sufficiently well described in the "Handbook of Morocco," published by the Intelligence Department in 1890 but, in my opinion, Mogador is the best port on this coast, and not Mazagan (p. 28). At Mogador the harbour is inclosed, and vessels of moderate tonnage can lie inside to unload. Local report says that the southern passage is not filling up, but is increasing.

The good holding ground for anchorage in the harbour is at present fouled by the wreck of a French steamer, which burnt and went down there some years back. I am informed by a British resident that he has received permission and a grant of money for the removal of this wreck. The difficulty of entrance to the harbour (Handbook, p. 29) is, I consider, exaggerated.

There is nothing in the defences of the above ports to prevent, scarcely to delay, a landing, and the low promontory, almost a causeway connecting Mogador with the mainland, renders the holding of this place easy, when once occupied. I propose to submit a more exhaustive Report on the above towns to the Intelligence Department at the conclusion of the Mission.

3. Rabat and Safi were not visited owing to the heavy surf making the landing dangerous. I am informed that the battery containing the two 32-ton Krupp guns at Rabat is practically completed (Handbook, p. 26).

4. *Mogador to Morocco.*—Viewing the advantages of the port of Mogador as a landing-place, and the fact of its being the nearest port to the capital, the route allocated to you (the shortest and most direct to Morocco city) is of extreme importance, especially as no detailed Report or map appears to have been made of it. I have prepared a military sketch of 1 inch to the mile, with contours at 100 feet interval

(smaller interval at important points), which I propose to forward through you, for the information of the Intelligence Department. I inclose a tracing on a small scale ($\frac{1}{633600}$) of the road taken, which will fit over the Intelligence Department Map No. 688 of February 1888.*

(*a.*) Mogador to Sok-el-Arba, 1st April, 14 miles.—A detour to the south is here made to avoid the heavy and shifting sandhills lying immediately to the east of Mogador for a distance of from 2 to 4 miles. This is the most difficult march yet made, and presents great obstacles to wheeled transport, the track running through the Argan forest being over very rough and broken limestone rock. It was after this march that it was considered desirable to put into pack carriage the light Maxim mounting being taken for presentation to His Shereefian Majesty. A good road could, however, easily be constructed through the hills. A halt was made here for the 2nd April to organize the transport, having got it all collected and clear of the town.

(*b.*) Sok-el-Arba to Sok-el-Khamis, 3rd April, 13 miles.—The road continues to run through a hilly and wooded district, and is in places very rough, but could easily be made practicable for wheeled traffic.

(*c.*) Sok-el-Khamis to Taftasht, 4th April, 16 miles, over open and gently undulating upland valleys and plateaux presenting no difficulties.

(*d.*) Taftasht to Sidi Mukhtar, 5th April, 18½ miles.—Shortly after leaving Taftasht the great plain of Morocco is entered and the road is practically a dead level, only deviating from a straight line in order to make use of several well-defined features as land marks. It keeps close to the foot hills of the Atlas for convenience of water supply. It is at this time of year hard clay and alluvial soil, stony at a very few places, but the stones being small present no difficulties to wheeled traffic, and would be useful for road-making. Near Taftasht the important spring of Ain Oumast is passed.

(*e.*) Sidi Mukhtar to Sheshawa, 6th April, 20 miles.—Country same as last march. The valley of the River Sheshawa is singularly rich and fertile.

(*f.*) Sheshawa to Mzudia, 7th April, 18 miles. Country and road are of same nature as last march.

(*g.*) Mzudia to River Nfis, 8th April, 22 miles.—Information having been received that the ford on the direct line to Morocco was impracticable owing to recent rain in the Atlas, and that the country immediately to the east of the river was very muddy owing to the overflowing of irrigation channels, a detour was made to a ford higher up the river, which proved practicable. Country, &c., as before.

(*h.*) River Nfis to Ain Raha, near Morocco city, 9th April, 11 miles.—Country almost dead level, well irrigated, and very fertile.

5. *Water Supply.*—Details of the water supply I reserve for a more detailed Report; it is sufficient here to say that all along the route there are no perennial sources sufficient for a small expedition at any time of year.

6. *Supplies.*—Almost the whole way the country was under cultivation, principally barley, and, owing to the prohibition of the exports of this grain, there must be large supplies in store. There is not so much cultivation on the plain of Morocco this year as usual, owing to the recent disturbances in the Rahamna district.

A fair number of goats, sheep, cattle, and horses, were seen.

It is the opinion of residents that, owing to tribal differences, &c., that after a first victory, supplies would come in freely to an invader. It is almost certain that the services of the Jews, especially those of the coast towns, who are considerable traders, would be at the disposal of any one who would pay.

7. *Towns and Villages.*—None of importance are passed on this road; they present no special features except dirt. The walls of those that are inclosed are so thin that they would present no obstacle to artillery fire.

8. *Suitability of the Country for Military Operations.*—No difficulty is presented to the operations of all arms except during the first two marches, when it would be advisable to use mountain artillery until a road could be constructed.

The plain of Morocco is ideal for the movements of light cavalry.

The report on the Shereefian troops I reserve until I have had the opportunity of closer observation.

The opinion of some of the British residents is that if the local "sokos," or markets for the interchange of foodstuffs were stopped, the resistance of the inhabitants would be much hampered.

9. *Suitability of the Country for a Railway.*—After the first 4 miles through the

* Not printed.

sand-hills east of Mogador, there are no difficulties to the making of a railway, and the plain of Morocco is suitable for a surface-line almost without preparation, as the gradients are almost imperceptible, and the bridges required but few. A Decauville line, or a steam, or even mule tramway, would be an invaluable adjunct to operations towards the capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. L. WHITE, *Major, R.A.*

No. 119.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 42. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Camp outside Morocco City, April* 10, 1896.

I HAVE been informed by a trustworthy authority that all the Melilla indemnity has been forwarded to Mazagan for shipment to Tangier. In regard to the delimitation of the neutral zone, I have been told that negotiations are proceeding for abrogating the clause in the Treaty respecting this point, on the basis of the Moorish Government paying an additional indemnity to Spain.

I have not yet been able to ascertain how far these negotiations have progressed, or what will be the amount of indemnity to be paid by the Moorish Government.

Some time back the Spanish Minister expressed to me his concern with regard to the neutral zone, as he considered that it would be very difficult for the Moorish Government and very costly for the Spanish Government to obtain the fulfilment of the Treaty stipulations on the subject. Personally, he was of opinion that the clause in the Treaty was a mistake. If this view has prevailed with the Spanish Government, the payment of an indemnity in lieu of the delimitation would relieve both Governments of a disagreeable question, and would be of a pecuniary advantage to Spain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 120.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 43. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 18, 1896.

THE Spanish Minister communicated to me this morning a despatch he had received from his Vice-Consul at Tetuan, reporting that it is proposed to open a free port at Nemours with a view to encourage French trade with Morocco across the Algerian frontier from Lalla Marnia to Ujda.

In this despatch, translation of an extract from which I beg to inclose herewith, the Spanish Vice-Consul asserts that the French Government have obtained from the Sultan the right to introduce French goods into Morocco by land absolutely free of duty, and he quotes a letter from the Spanish Vice-Consul at Nemours, stating that French firms are already making preparations for establishing themselves at Lalla Marnia, and opening up a trade with Ujda next September, when effect will be given to a Resolution passed by the French Chambers in October or November last with the object of facilitating this trade.

The Spanish Minister, like myself, had not previously heard of the Resolution of the French Chambers to which the Vice-Consul refers, nor had he any knowledge of the alleged grant by the Sultan to France of free trade across the Algerian frontier, and he suggested that I should request Sir Arthur Nicolson to endeavour to ascertain at the Court whether there is any foundation for this latter statement.

M. de Ojeda regarded the matter as one of great importance, for, were the alleged project of the French Government carried into effect, French goods imported free of duty viâ Algeria would drive out of the Moorish market other foreign goods which had paid the 10 per cent. duty at Melilla and the other ports of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Señor de Cuevas to Señor de Ojeda.

(Translation.)
(Extract.) *Tetuan, April* 16, 1896.

IN my despatches of the 17th and 24th March, I had the honour to trouble your Excellency on the subject of the establishment of a free port at Nemours, and your Excellency was pleased to reply that, in view of the importance of the matter, you wished me to communicate to you such information as I might be able to obtain on the subject.

In order to render my Report as accurate as possible, I addressed myself to our Vice-Consul at Nemours, requesting information on various points, and that officer, with a promptitude and zeal worthy of all praise, replied to me as follows in his despatch of the 12th instant:—

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 3rd instant.

"The establishment at Marnia of a free depôt, from which all kinds of French (but not foreign) products will be introduced by land free of all tariff duties into the very important market of Ujda, and other similar and not less important markets, was the object of a Resolution adopted by the French Chambers in October or November 1895. For want, however, of the necessary previous vote of credit, the Minister of Finance applied for and obtained a postponement of the execution of this scheme until next September, when the matter will be taken in hand and effect given to the Decree published in December last.

"The most important articles of import will be sugar, raw coffee, candles, soap, &c., and in textiles, cottons, woollens, silks, &c.

"According to trustworthy reports, several French houses are already actively engaged at Marnia in opening up relations with their neighbours at Ujda, and, in my humble opinion, the results of this scheme must be very prejudicial to the interests and prosperity of Melilla.

"This is what I have to tell you in fulfilment of my duty."

That is to say, that France, setting aside the troublesome procedure by discussion of a Treaty, which would keep the Shereefian Court in a state of uneasiness and mistrust, has adopted the more convenient system of putting forward one by one in the form of simple notes affairs of the highest importance, and obtaining their favourable settlement by means of Firmans containing but a few lines. There is no doubt that the Sultan has granted to them the very great privilege of absolute exemption from duty for all French products entering Morocco by land, at present viâ Ujda, and later on by Figuig and other places.

Thus, the English will continue to pay on their goods at the Custom-houses at the ports of this Empire 10 per cent. more than their French rivals, and for others it will be the same.

The diffusion of the French language, carried on with so much pains by means of the schools founded by the Alliance Israélite of Paris, will admirably assist French commerce to distribute throughout Morocco with ease and at a good price its cloths, cashmeres, silks, sugars, teas, coffees, and the thousand fancy articles out of which French factories know how to make such good profits.

No. 121.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 18, 1896.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 9 of the 23rd January, reporting the receipt of Shereefian orders to the administrators of customs at this port to pay, on the expiration of three months, the indemnity demanded for the piratical attack upon the "Virgen de los Angeles," I have the honour to report that, in compliance with those orders, the administrators have this day paid to me the sum of 4,554 dollars 4 reals vellon, which amount I am about to transmit to the Governor of Gibraltar, as directed by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 122.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Morocco City, April* 19, 1896.

IT is the intention of the Moorish Government, I believe, to enquire of me whether a Special Embassy may be sent by them to England. The official selected as Envoy would probably be the Minister of War, who is a brother of the Grand Vizier.

I do not propose to suggest the Mission of my own initiative, but should I be asked, I will reply that if an Embassy is sent it will be welcome.

No. 123.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Morocco City, April* 16, 1896.

WOULD there be any objection to thirty officers and ten musicians being sent to England by the Moorish Government to learn drill, &c. ?

The Moorish Government wish to send them, and would pay all expenses.

No. 124.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 27, 1896.

YOUR telegram of the 25th instant.

What would be the object of the Mission if it were sent ? Would other countries besides England be visited ?

No. 125.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 27, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 20th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier reports that a cheque for the Cape Juby indemnity was forwarded this morning from that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 126.

North-West African Company to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

My Lord, 132, *Cheapside, London, April* 28, 1896.

I AM instructed by the Directors of the North-West African Company to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 27th instant, and to express their sincere thanks for the same.

If it is your Lordship's pleasure, the Directors would respectfully suggest that the cheque, upon its arrival, should be forwarded to the Company's Bankers, the London Joint Stock Bank, Limited, Prince's Street, E.C.

I am, &c.
(For the North-West African Company, Limited),
(Signed) GEO. RAYNOR, *Secretary.*

No. 126*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Morocco City, April* 29, 1896.

THE Sultan is desirous of dispatching a Mission to England, which would leave here in June. The Grand Vizier, who informed me of this, inquired whether it could be received. I recommended that it should be postponed till next year, in view of the late period of the season at which it would arrive. This suggestion was willingly agreed to by the Grand Vizier.

I am led to believe that the Moorish Government would expect the expenses of the journey and of the entertainment of the Mission to be defrayed from public funds.

I considered it better to suggest postponement of the Mission, as I was ignorant of your Lordship's views on this point.

No. 127.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 30, 1896.*

I AM informed by the Spanish Minister that on the 27th instant a Spanish cavalry patrol, having been stoned by some Riffs who were on Spanish territory, drew their swords and attacked them. The Riffs replied by firing upon the patrol. Fresh troops came to the assistance of the patrol, and the Riffs were joined by others of their tribe, the position of affairs becoming critical. A Spanish soldier was severely wounded,* and three horses were injured. The Moorish Governor stationed at Melilla expressed his regrets to the Spanish Commandant, and was eventually successful in persuading the Riffs to retire. The Spanish troops were then also withdrawn.

M. de Ojeda has made a representation on the subject to Sid Hadj M. Torres insisting on the fulfilment of the stipulation that 400 Moorish soldiers be stationed at Melilla as a guard; he also demanded that an indemnity be paid, and that the aggressors be publicly punished.

Sid Hadj M. Torres expressed his regret at the occurrence, and promised that the necessary steps would be taken.

I have repeated the foregoing to Madrid.

No. 128.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April 30, 1896.*

I APPROVE your action as reported in your telegram of yesterday.

No. 129.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 36.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 1, 1896.*

I HAVE received and communicated confidentially to the Conjoint Jewish Committee Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 39 of the 9th ultimo in regard to the Jewish Mellah at Mogador.

I approve the course of action which Her Majesty's Minister proposes to take with a view to remedy the overcrowded and insanitary condition of the quarter occupied by the Jews at that port.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 130.

Foreign Office to Conjoint Jewish Committee.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 1, 1896.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit herewith, for the confidential information of the Conjoint Jewish Committee, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier in regard to the condition of the Mellah at Mogador.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. PERCY ANDERSON.

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* Two soldiers were wounded.

† No. 116.

No. 131.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 45.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that I made my formal entry into this town yesterday. The Mission was met by the Master of Ceremonies at a distance of some 4½ miles from the city, whence the road was lined with troops and tribesmen to the gate of the town. The number of mounted men was exceptionally large, owing to the presence at Court of numerous Kaids with their followers. The Minister of War and the Governor of the town also had ridden out to meet me, and the Foreign Minister called upon me immediately on my arrival at the Palace, which has been prepared for the residence of the Mission.

The entry was watched by a large crowd of townspeople, who, according to the custom on such occasions, had been previously ordered to close their shops and proceed outside the city walls.

The Mission is well lodged in the Palace and grounds usually set apart for Foreign Ministers, and everything has been done that is possible for our comfort and convenience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 132.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 46.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 26 of the 17th ultimo, transmitting copy of a letter from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society in regard to the negotiation of a Treaty for the abolition of the Slave Trade in this country.

I will, should an opportunity present itself, do what is possible towards inducing the the Moorish Government to prohibit or limit the public sale of slaves, but I fear that there is little hope of any practical results being obtained. The only means, I would submit, by which perhaps some measure of success could be looked for in the direction of putting some restraint on the traffic and sale of slaves would be by the united action of the Diplomatic Body in Morocco. Even if this united action were attainable, and even if the Moorish Government thereby felt compelled to make some concessions, it would be a matter of extreme difficulty to insure and supervise the observance of any engagements which might be undertaken. Still united action might succeed in somewhat limiting the evils of the existing system.

As has been reported by my predecessors, the question is an exceedingly difficult one to treat; but I will bear in mind the instructions of your Lordship and the wishes of the Anti-Slavery Society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 133.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 47.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 13, 1896.

I WAS received this morning in public audience by the Sultan to present my credentials.

The ceremony was fixed to take place at 9 A.M. in one of the large courtyards of the Palace, and myself and my staff were conducted thither by one of the Masters of Ceremonies, accompanied by the usual escort. The Sultan rode into the square immediately we had dismounted, and, having handed to him my letter of credence, I addressed His Majesty in a speech, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy. I beg leave to transmit a translation of His Majesty's reply.

After the Gentlemen of the Mission had been individually presented, the Sultan retired to his Palace, and we were then shown over the Royal garden.

I am to have a private audience of the Sultan the day after to-morrow.

His Majesty, who on horseback appeared to be tall for his age, behaved with considerable dignity and composure. He is somewhat too stout for his years; but his eyes were bright and steady, and he certainly did not give the impression of being in weak health.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 133.

Sir A. Nicolson's Speech to His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco.

IN presenting to your Majesty the letter from my august Sovereign accrediting me as her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to your Majesty, I have the honour to convey the sincere and cordial good wishes of my Sovereign for your Majesty's health and welfare.

I am happy to assure your Majesty that my gracious Sovereign and her Government earnestly desire the maintenance of your Majesty's power and authority, and the happiness and prosperity of the people over whom Providence has called you to rule.

It will be my chief endeavour to maintain and strengthen the friendship which has existed for so many generations between your Majesty's Empire and my country; and in the discharge of this agreeable duty, I feel I may rely with confidence on your Majesty's gracious goodwill, and on the assistance of those whom your Majesty has been pleased to call into your Council.

I trust that Providence may accord to your Majesty many years of peace, prosperity, and glory.

Inclosure 2 in No. 133.

Reply of His Majesty the Sultan to Sir A. Nicolson's Speech.

WE place full credence in the powers delegated to you by your gracious Sovereign towards our Majesty, exalted of God; and we accept her good wishes for our happiness and welfare. And we thank the Queen and her Government for their sincere wishes for the maintenance of our Imperial power and authority, and for their endeavours to increase the firmly rooted friendship existing between our Government and them, as in the time of our blessed ancestors.

And our wish in the carrying out of the desires of your Government, of whatsoever nature they may be, is to meet them with just and lawful attention, and we are confident that their desires will only be such as will strengthen the friendship between the two Governments.

And we know that in choosing you, the Queen has seen in you a good preserver and defender of the friendship so firmly established between the two Governments, and one who will endeavour to increase this friendship.

No. 134.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 49.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 17, 1896.

I HAVE had the advantage of two audiences of the Sultan, and have exchanged visits with most of the principal personages of the Government; and from what I have been able to gather from these interviews, and from conversations with those who have long resided at the Shereefian Court, I have obtained more insight into the position of affairs than was possible from a distance.

The Sultan, whatever potential qualities he may possess as a Ruler, is still practically under tutelage, and can hardly be said, apart from the prestige attaching to his position, to form an active factor in the political situation. His Grand Vizier, Ba Hamed, has concentrated all power in his own hands, and guards with jealous vigilance all approaches to

his Sovereign. So far as I have been able to judge, Ba Hamed is a man of narrow views and mediocre abilities. He is skilled in the arts of intrigue, vindictive, avaricious, and unscrupulous in his methods. His chief quality, or perhaps chief advantage over his rivals, is his obstinacy, and his steady pursuit of certain aims. He however appears to be unwilling, in matters not directly concerning his own position or his own personal interests, to take a decided line of action, and in dealing with questions of foreign affairs he is greatly under the influence of Ci Abdeselam Tazzi, the Minister of Finance, a man who is averse to all reforms, and ill-disposed towards Europeans. The other Ministers are, for the present, cyphers, and some of the older amongst them naturally resent being thrust on one side, and are, no doubt, waiting for an opportunity to reassert their position. This opportunity may not be far distant. As the Sultan grows up to manhood, a stage which is earlier reached in the East than in the West, he will not improbably wish to assume the real Government, and a reaction will set in against the man whom he may now consider as a paternal adviser, but whom he will then regard as an usurper of the Royal prerogatives. This may be the natural development of the course of affairs; but some maintain that it is more likely that the current of events may take a different course, and that the fall of the Vizier may carry with it the dethronement of the Sovereign with whom he is so closely identified. I should doubt if this would occur, as I believe Moorish history can show but few precedents for such an event. In any case there is, I am told, great and increasing discontent against the Vizier among all classes, and his fall would no doubt be welcomed by many. His policy towards the tribes in this part of the country is, to my mind, unwise, and may lead to serious difficulties. Encouraged by the success which attended his dealings with the Rahamna tribe, a success which, however, does not appear to have been so decisive as was at first believed, he is now endeavouring to obtain the same results from other tribes, who have given little or no cause for harsh treatment. The forced contributions which have been ordered to be levied from certain large tribes are excessive in amount, and if collected will cause much hardship and misery. The tribes may resist, and their resistance would lead to a renewal of those cruelties and devastating acts which marked the punishment of the Rahamnas. As many European traders, British included, have large outstanding debts among these tribes, the prospects of recovering these debts from an impoverished people are exceedingly remote; and commerce which might have revived in an orderly and peaceful condition of affairs, will continue to languish. Moreover, although the Government may succeed in extracting the desired contributions, they will have sown the seeds of angry discontent, and will have exhausted the sources of future revenue. The policy of the Grand Vizier in this respect seems as shortsighted as it is unjust.

If a glance be taken beyond the immediate present to the possible future, I fear there is little to be seen which could encourage the hope of any reform, or of this country entering on a path of progress and civilization. I doubt if any of those at present in power, or any of those who are likely to be their successors, have any inclination or desire to alter the present system. Few of them have the remotest conception of good government or of justice; their ignorance of the outside world is absolute, and there is no younger generation growing up with more enlarged or more advanced ideas. These points are, however, so well known to your Lordship that it is unnecessary for me to dwell upon them.

The situation, from every point of view, is not a reassuring one, and I fear that the country will continue to remain in its disturbed, uncertain, and backward condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 135.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 18, 1896.

I REGRET to report that courier robberies are becoming somewhat frequent, not only on the road between Daralbaida and Rabat, but also on the route between Tangier and Fez. Last month, within one week, two British couriers were robbed on the latter road, and in one instance the courier was severely wounded. I have addressed, in consequence, a note to the Grand Vizier calling his serious attention to these misdeeds, and impressing on him the necessity of the responsible Governor being ordered to take steps for the discovery of the offenders, and to pay proper compensation for the outrage. I have also requested his Excellency to seriously warn all Governors that they are held

responsible for the security of the roads within their several districts, and that if a courier be robbed a fine should be imposed on the district where the outrage occurs. It seems to me that this measure, if carried out, will secure the assistance of the population of a district in the prevention of the crimes, and in the discovery of the offenders, should a robbery be committed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 136.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 22, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 44 of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I have remitted to the Governor of Gibraltar the amount received from the Moorish Government in settlement of the claim for the piratical attack upon the British vessel "Virgen de los Angeles" near Alhucemas last September.

I return herewith, as requested, the original documents inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 144 of the 7th December last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 137.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 51.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, under flying seal, a letter which I have addressed to the London Joint Stock Bank, inclosing a cheque for 25,000*l.* in payment of the final instalment of the amount due from the Moorish Government to the North-West African Company for the purchase of their establishment at Cape Juby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 138.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 102.)
My Lord, *Madrid, April* 29, 1896.

I REGRET to say that there are reports of an attack on Spaniards by Riffs in the neutral zone near Melilla.

The Republican paper the "Pais" gives great importance to this incident, which is treated lightly by the Ministerial organs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 139.

Sir G. Bonham to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 4.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Madrid, May* 1, 1896.

WITH reference to Sir Henry Drummond Wolff's despatch No. 102 of the 29th April and to Mr. White's telegram No. 23 of yesterday's date, which has been repeated to this Embassy, relating to the hostilities which have recently taken place between the Riffs and the Spanish troops at Melilla, I have the honour to report that, according to the accounts published of the proceedings at a Cabinet Council held

yesterday, Señor Canovas read a telegram from the Spanish Minister at Tangier, stating that the Moorish Minister had expressed his regret for the occurrence which he considered disgraceful to his Government, that he did not think it would be possible to punish the offenders unless the Sultan were himself to proceed to the Riff territory; that injunctions had however been conveyed to the Moorish Commander for the strict enforcement of the Treaty of Wad ras.

Señor Canovas attributed the conflict to the fact that, in consequence of the scarcity of pasture, Moorish shepherds had trespassed on Spanish territory.

There does not appear at present to be any disposition to attach undue importance to the incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BONHAM.

No. 140.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 5, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a despatch from Mr. White,* at present in charge of Her Majesty's Legation at Tangier, stating that he has remitted to the Governor of Gibraltar the amount received from the Moorish Government in settlement of the claim for the piratical attack upon the British vessel "Virgen de los Angeles" near Alhucemas.

The original documents on this subject, forwarded in your letter of the 30th November last, are returned herewith.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. PERCY ANDERSON.

No. 141.

Conjoint Jewish Committee to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord, 36, *Finsbury Circus, London, May* 6, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 1st instant, inclosing, for the confidential information of the Conjoint Jewish Committee, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier in regard to the condition of the Mellah at Mogador. My Committee will meet to-morrow, when I will do myself the honour of submitting your Lordship's letter to them. In the meantime, permit me to thank your Lordship, on their behalf, for the opportunity you are affording them of perusing the despatch in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEWIS EMANUEL,
Solicitor, and Secretary.

No. 142.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 21, 1896.

THE Grand Vizier has spoken to me very seriously as to the great abuses which were being made of the protection system, and gave me several examples of the manner in which it hampered the Administration of the country, particularly instancing the lavish manner in which Portuguese and American protection was accorded.

I told him that the British Legation, in conjunction, I believed, with the great majority of the other foreign missions, was desirous of keeping protection strictly within the limits allowed by Treaty, and that if abuses occurred, it was certainly against the wishes of the

* No. 136.

great majority of my colleagues. It seemed to me that, if the Moorish Government wished to raise the question, they might perhaps address the Diplomatic Body on the subject.

I recommended him, if he did address a note, to make no personal references, but confine himself to general terms, and to the expression of a hope that the foreign Representatives would watch over the execution of the Treaty engagements in regard to protection.

His Excellency replied that not long ago he had written a note on the evils of protection, and had received a very unsatisfactory reply. He referred to the note in which the Moorish Government had announced their intention of punishing all supposed malcontents in the Hooz district, whether protected or not.

I told the Vizier that on that occasion he had received an unwelcome answer because he had foreshadowed the intention of the Moorish Government to ignore and override a privilege accorded under Treaty, which was a very different thing from requesting the foreign Representatives to assist in preventing abuses of such privilege. At the same time he should see that Governors of districts acted in such a manner as not to drive people to seek protection. People would not search for protection outside if they found it under the laws of their own country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 143.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 54. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 21, 1896.

THE Grand Vizier spoke to me to-day on the question of Tuat, and said that of late the French Minister had been using very disquieting language in respect to that district. M. de Monbel, he said, had written a sharp note complaining of the arrest by the Moorish Government of some natives of Tuat, and stating in threatening terms that if such interference were continued, the Moorish Government would hear further on the subject. I asked his Excellency what reply had been sent to this communication. He said that he had answered that the natives who had been arrested had attacked some Kaïds of the Government, and that Tuat was within Moorish jurisdiction. He was, he said, anxious lest the French authorities should take active action, and he wished for my advice as to what should be done in the circumstances.

I told Ba Hamed, as had been conveyed to him on former occasions, that the best thing to do was to avoid offering any provocation to France, and to do all in his power to allow the question to lie dormant. If pressed, he could instruct Sid Mahommed Torres to mention the matter to all the other Legations, and not to select the British alone for their confidences. If the Moorish Government by any act on their part irritated the French authorities further, it might be possible that the occupation of Tuat would be the result.

His Excellency said that this would be a seizure of a portion of Moorish territory which all the Powers had "engaged" to defend. I replied that France, like other Powers, no doubt desired—I thought it best to avoid the word "engaged"—to maintain the integrity of the Moorish dominions, but the difficulty was that she contended that Tuat was not within those dominions.

It was in view of this difference of opinion as to what was and what was not within Moorish jurisdiction that I suggested, in case of necessity, a reference to all the Legations, and not to one alone.

His Excellency appeared satisfied with this advice, and expressed his acknowledgments to me for having given it. It is quite likely, however, that he will not not act upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 144.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(No. 55.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 22, 1896.

THE Grand Vizier informed me yesterday that the Sultan was anxious to send a Mission to England, as a sign of respect to Her Majesty the Queen, and of his friendly feelings towards Her Majesty's Government; and he inquired of me whether the Mission would be welcomed in my country.

His Excellency further said that one of his brothers had been selected as head of the Mission, and he hoped this appointment would be agreeable.

I replied that I was sure that any Mission from Morocco would be well received, and that its dispatch would be recognized as a friendly and courteous act. I should warn him, however, that after the middle of July, the Government and Society left the capital for summer residences, and it would be very unfortunate if the Mission arrived at a moment when all the principal personages were dispersed. His Excellency said he was afraid it would be impossible for the Mission to start from this town before two months at the earliest, and therefore it would not reach England till the middle of July. I advised him in this case to postpone the idea of sending it this year, and that I would inform my Government of the good intentions of the Moorish Government. His Excellency agreed with this view, so I presume the project will be abandoned at any rate for this year.

I had previously learnt that the Moorish Government would expect that the Mission would be conveyed either in one of Her Majesty's ships or at Government expense to England, and would be entertained there at the public expense. I had in mind Lord Kimberley's telegram to Sir E. Satow No. 49 of the 7th November, 1894, and being unaware what view your Lordship would take of the dispatch of a Mission, I thought it more prudent, without hurting the susceptibilities of the Moorish Government, to procure a postponement of the project till I had had time to communicate with your Lordship. Between now and next year there will be ample time to settle all details, should your Lordship desire to encourage the idea, and I did not wish preparations to be made on this side for a Mission which might be considered inopportune by Her Majesty's Government.

Personally, I do not think any practical results would be likely to flow from the dispatch of a Mission, and it might at this moment create unnecessary comment on the part of some foreign Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 145.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(No. 56.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 22, 1896.

THE Shereef of Tamsloht, the influential Sheikh to whom British protection was accorded some three years ago, has frequently visited me since my arrival here. He is an elderly man of agreeable manners, and very profuse in his expressions of loyalty to the British Government. He is, however, of a timid disposition, and has been much disquieted as to the attitude of the Sultan and Government towards him, being well aware that the Vizier had made formal complaints in regard to his alleged complicity in the Rahamna revolt, as was reported in Mr. White's despatch No. 76 of the 11th June, 1895. I believe that the charges on that head are quite unfounded, and were promulgated by the Governor of this town, a personal enemy of the Shereef, and who was anxious to shift the responsibility for the disturbance to any shoulders but his own. I have therefore reassured the Shereef on that point, and have explained to him that, now that he is under British protection, he has nothing to fear. At the same time, I have told him that it would be advisable that he should pay his respects both to the Sultan and to the Vizier, and show his desire to be on good relations with both, and to be a peaceable and loyal inhabitant of the Empire. He has paid a visit to the Vizier, and was very favourably received, and will shortly have an audience of the Sultan. He has considerable claims against the Government for destruction of property during the Rahamna rebellion, but he informed me that he was quite willing to waive these claims, as he wished to cause no embarrassment either to the Government or to the Legation.

At an interview yesterday with the Grand Vizier I mentioned this circumstance to his

Excellency, and said that I trusted the Moorish Government would properly appreciate this act of good-will and magnanimity. The Vizier, in thanking me for this information, said that the circumstances in which British protection had been granted to the Shereef had been explained to him, and that he quite approved and understood it. The Shereef was an influential personage, and the Government might have to appeal to him on many matters of business, and he inquired whether there would be any objection to their addressing themselves directly to him instead of through the Legation. I told his Excellency that there would be no objection at all to their doing so, and that I was sure he would find the Shereef anxious to meet their wishes so far as he properly could. The Vizier said he trusted the Shereef would ask for an audience of the Sultan, as His Majesty would give him a very warm and gracious reception. I replied that the Shereef intended shortly to apply for the honour of an interview.

I have since seen the Shereef and related to him what passed between the Vizier and myself, and have impressed on him that now that the relations between him and the Court and Government were on so satisfactory a footing, he should take care to maintain them. He promised that he would do so.

There is no doubt that the Government find it necessary to keep on good terms with the Shereef, who exercises great influence in this part of Morocco, and it seems to me more prudent that they should have direct relations with him than that all communications should pass through the Legation. It might prove embarrassing were the Legation to be the sole channel between the Government and the Shereef, and it would be giving too extensive an interpretation to the protection accorded to the Shereef if the Legation insisted on all communications passing through its hands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON

No. 146.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(No. 57.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 22, 1896.

YOUR Lordship is aware that since the outbreak of the Rahamna rebellion, and even subsequent to the pacification of that tribe, the Moorish Government have been anxious that an inquiry should be held into the assistance which Sid Bubekir is alleged to have rendered to the rebels. Sid Bubekir, on the other hand, stoutly denies the accusation, and formulates some heavy claims for damages and loss of property.

I spoke on this subject yesterday to the Grand Vizier, and explained to him that an inquiry would be a very lengthy and complicated affair. The Government would doubtless call a number of witnesses in support of the allegations, while Sid Bubekir would produce an equal number to refute them. There would be much cross-swearing, a considerable amount probably of perjury, and much ill-feeling evoked, while no practical results would be attained. I was quite ready to hold an inquiry if it was so desired, but in the interests of both parties it seemed to me desirable to let the matter drop. The Rahamna had been subdued, and, from the Government point of view, that was the principal object. On the other hand, Sid Bubekir had some claims for loss of property. The claims, so far as I had looked at them, seemed voluminous, and would require a lengthy and impartial examination. It would be impossible for me to go into them during my short stay here. I therefore proposed that the inquiry should be dropped, and that the claims should be examined at Tangier by an official from the Legation, and one appointed by Sid Mahommed Torres.

To this proposal the Vizier readily agreed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 147.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 8.)

(No. 58. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 22, 1896.

THE Vizier complained to me yesterday of the attitude recently adopted by the German Representative towards the Moorish Government, and said that the Geranm

Legation appeared to lose no opportunity of raising difficulties and causing embarrassments. Claims of a very doubtful character are being pressed with unnecessary energy, while any proposal of the Moorish Government, such as the gate tax and tobacco duties, met with a peremptory refusal.

I told the Vizier that I did not think that the German Legation had actually refused the imposition of the gate tax and the tobacco duties. It was merely awaiting instructions from the German Government. If the German Minister had been a little severe in his dealings with them, they might perhaps experience a milder treatment from his successor. The Vizier said the Chargé d'Affaires was harsher than the Minister. I said that a Chargé d'Affaires was only provisional, and I inquired whether the Moorish Government had received any communication from the German Government itself.

I had been told privately that the German Government had quite recently addressed a very friendly note to this Government, disavowing the attitude and action of the late German Minister, and assuring the Moorish Government of the cordial feelings felt at Berlin towards them. This information had rather surprised me, and I wished to test its accuracy.

The Vizier assured me that no communication had been received from Berlin, and that it was the fear that not only that the German Legation, but also the German Government, had changed their attitude towards Morocco which had disturbed them. I am unaware whether the Vizier was telling me the truth, but if their minds had been made easy by tranquillizing messages from Berlin, I do not see why the Vizier should complain to me of the attitude of the German Legation. One fact is undoubted, and that is, that the German Legation, whether acting with or without instructions, is now very severe in all its dealings with the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 148.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 52. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 28, 1896.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 42 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report that I took an opportunity of inquiring of the Spanish Minister this morning whether any understanding had yet been come to with the Moorish Government regarding the delimitation of the neutral zone at Melilla.

M. de Ojeda informed me that he had forwarded to Madrid the reply of the Vizier to his letter complaining of the non-fulfilment of the engagement to delimitate the zone in February last.

In this reply the Vizier had explained that the state of the country had necessitated the Sultan's visiting the southern provinces, and that it had thus been impossible to carry out the delimitation at the time stipulated, and he promised that the Sultan would shortly return to Fez, and would then lose no time in proceeding with an army to the Riff in order to effect the delimitation.

M. de Ojeda then read to me the reply which had reached him yesterday from Madrid, in which he was instructed to inform the Vizier that the Spanish Government, desiring to afford further proof of its good-will, was willing to agree to the postponement of the delimitation for a definite short term, in the confidence that the Sultan would fulfil his promise to soon return to Fez, and then at once take the necessary steps to carry out the delimitation, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty, on the due accomplishment of which the Spanish Government was bound to insist.

The Spanish Minister appeared to fear that the success of the recent expedition to the southern capital might give the Vizier an exaggerated idea of the strength of his Government, and render him more difficult to deal with, in which case trouble might ensue, for public opinion in Spain is very strong on the Morocco question.

He added that he thought it not improbable that, on the termination of the Cuban question, the Spanish Government might make a demonstration by collecting a fleet in Moorish waters, and massing in Andalucia the troops returned from Cuba, in order to impress upon the Moorish Government that Spain is able, should the necessity arise, to enforce her rights in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 149.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Morocco City, May 3, 1896.*

IN consequence of the disturbed state of the country in the southern districts, it would, I find, have been impossible for the Moorish Government to have sent at an earlier date the Cape Juby money, which could only be drawn from the Treasury here.

Under these circumstances would your Lordship desire that a claim for interest be presented by me? Should the claim for interest be foregone, the Moorish Government might be informed by me that, had it not been for the existence of the special circumstances above mentioned, a claim for interest would have been put forward and payment insisted upon.

No. 150.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 37.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 9, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 50 of the 18th ultimo, reporting the frequency of courier robberies in Morocco, and that British couriers have recently been robbed and wounded on the road between Tangier and Fez. I approve the action you have taken with a view to the discovery and punishment of the offenders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 151.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Morocco City, May 6, 1896.*

I LEAVE Morocco city on the 9th instant and will reach Tangier on the 22nd instant.

All cases that I have brought before the Moorish Government have been settled by them with goodwill and expedition.

No. 152.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 38.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 12, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 53 of the 21st ultimo, reporting a conversation which you had on that date with the Grand Vizier, relating to the alleged abuse of the protection system in Morocco.

I approve the language held by you to his Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 153.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 39. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 54, Confidential, of the 21st ultimo, reporting a conversation which you had on that day with the Grand Vizier, relating to French designs on Tuat, and I approve the advice given by you to his Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 154.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 40.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 56 of the 22nd ultimo, reporting conversations which you have had with the Grand Vizier and the Shereef of Tamsloht as to the relations of the latter with the Government of Morocco.

The advice given by you on these occasions is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 155.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 41.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 57 of the 22nd ultimo, reporting an arrangement which you have made with the Grand Vizier to the effect that the inquiry into Sid Bubekir's complicity in the Rahamna rebellion will not be proceeded with, and that his claims against the Moorish Government will be investigated at Tangier.

I approve the action taken by you in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 156.

Foreign Office to North-West Africa Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1896.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd March last, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state to you, for the information of your Directors, that a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, dated Morocco city, 3rd May, in which he reports that he finds that it would have been practically impossible for the Moorish Government to have sent the money in payment for the Company's establishment at Cape Juby earlier than was actually done, owing to the unsettled condition of the country in those districts, and that the Treasury in Morocco city was the only source whence the money could have been drawn.

In these circumstances, Her Majesty's Ministers suggest that it would seem undesirable to present a claim for interest during the period for which the payment of the money was delayed, and Lord Salisbury feels doubtful whether the claim can be urged on the Moorish Government with any effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. P. ANDERSON.

No. 157.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 13.)

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 12, 1896.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Salisbury, with reference to your letter of the 14th April, the accompanying copies of two despatches from the Governor of Gibraltar, relative to the British falucho "San José," which was attacked by Riff pirates.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 157.

Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir, *Gibraltar, April* 29, 1896.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 21st instant, I have the honour to forward, for your information, a communication which I have received from the solicitor for the owners, master, and crew, &c., of the British falucho "San José," relative to the circumstances under which this vessel was stated to have been attacked by Riff pirates on the 28th March last. This Report was not forwarded earlier, as I am still awaiting from Mr. Parodi the sworn declarations and statements of claim which on the 4th instant he was requested to furnish with the least possible delay, so that they might be placed in the hands of Sir A. Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, before he leaves Morocco city.

2. I am given to understand that the necessary documents will be furnished by the parties interested as soon as certain particulars are obtained from Tetuan, and which it is expected will arrive in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. BIDDULPH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 157.

Mr. Parodi to Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar.

Sir, 62, *Waterport Street, Gibraltar, March* 31, 1896.

I HAVE the honour, on behalf of the owner, master, crew, and two of the passengers of the British falucho, or vessel, called the "San José," belonging to this port, and of the owner of her cargo, to bring to your notice, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the circumstances under which the said vessel has been pillaged by Riffians, between two places known as Rio de los Alamos and Isla de los Chumbos on the African coast.

The said falucho left Gibraltar on the 27th instant, laden with a general cargo of lawful merchandize, bound to Tetuan. On the 27th, when off Cape Negron, she was becalmed, and driven by the tide towards Rio de los Alamos. On the following day at about 4 P.M., whilst still becalmed, and drifting between Rio de los Alamos and Isla de los Chumbos, those on board her observed a karab approaching them, manned by twenty Riffians, armed with Remingtons and other weapons. The latter eventually reached the "San José," boarded her, and compelled those on board to lower their boat, to get into the same, and to man their oars, and tow the vessel towards the land. In thus compelling them, the Riffians drew and brandished their knives, threatening, and knocking their prisoners about. Once in the boat they were searched, and robbed of all moneys and effects on them.

In the course of such towage another karab manned by ten Riffians belonging to a second kabyle, was observed coming towards them. On these reaching the "San José," a scuffle ensued between the two sets of Riffians, both beeng intent on carrying off the plunder, for which purpose the vessel was brought to anchor. Thereupon those in the first karab rowed back to the shore, and soon returned with three other karabs, all four containing about eighty Riffians. The Riffians who had remained with the "San José," on noticing the approach of these karabs, ordered the crew of the "San

José" to row out to sea. Those on board the approaching karabs thereupon opened fire on those belonging to the "San José," and on the Riffians who were with them, compelling them to stop. On all the karabs getting together, after much dispute and wrangling, some arrangement seemed to be arrived at between them as to the division of the plunder, whereupon they jointly looted the vessel entirely, carrying away with them all the cargo, the effects and moneys of the master and crew (four all told) and of two of the passengers, ship's stores, &c., and a specific sum of 750 dollars in cash, intended for the purchase of eggs, oranges, and other merchandize at Tetuan, knocking about and forcing those on board to help in discharging the cargo and effects into their karabs. This done, the master, crew, and two of the passengers were tied together in couples, and sold by the Riffians to the highest bidder for 150 dollars. This highest bid was given on the entreaties of the master of the "San José," by Mohamed Bentuali-el-Shereef, *alias* El Moro Alto and Benmesod, Chief of one of the Kabyles, who were known to him, and who granted him and his companions their release on the latter undertaklng to reimburse them in respect of the purchase-money. The "San José" thereupon sailed back for Gibraltar, arriving here at about 2 P.M. this day.

Three of the assailants who particularly objected to the liberation of said master, crew, and passengers, and who were the most fierce and cruel throughout, are named Sidi Mohamed Amar, Sidi Butraba, and Sidi Ali-el-Shereef.

From the moment of their capture to that of their liberation, namely, from 4 P.M. on the 28th to 1 P.M. on the 29th, those belonging to the "San José" were kept without food, assaulted, and grossly ill-treated, and during their return journey they suffered considerably from privation, as no water or provisions were left on board.

Besides the parties above mentioned there were on board the "San José" two other passengers, both of them Moors, who went off to shore in one of the karabs, and who have never been seen or heard of since.

I have taken measures for sworn statements to be made by and on behalf of the parties interested for ascertaining the damage suffered by the vessel, and the losses sustained by her owner, master, crew, and passengers, and for the medical examination of some of the crew and passengers, as one of them in particular is seriously laid up in consequence of the shock and ill-treatment he was subjected to, and pending these formalities, I hasten to bring the case briefly to your notice, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, and to request that it may be communicated through the proper channel to the Shereefian authorities, whom I beg, on behalf of my clients, to hold responsible for all damages and losses occasioned to all parties interested by this daring act of piracy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE P. PARODI, *Solicitor for José Diaz Antonio Acosta, José Castillo, José Lopez, José Tosso, the elder, José Tosso, the younger, and José Martinez, the Owner, Master, Crew, and Passengers of the British falucho "San José," and the owner of her cargo.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 157.

Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Gibraltar, April* 29, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of this date, I have the honour to report that I received a confidential communication from Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier, stating that there is some cause to suspect that the vessel may have visited the Riffian coast for the purpose of landing contraband goods, and inquiries are being made here and at Tangier, with a view to ascertain whether this was the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. BIDDULPH.

No. 157*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 26.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Camp Geesa, May* 14, 1896.

AS the projected Moorish Mission to England has been deferred till next year, the matter does not press; but I think I could bring about its total abandonment without any harm resulting. I believe military visit would be desirable, were it not for the umbrage and suspicion likely to be aroused elsewhere, seeing that it would follow so soon on my visit to this Court.

Should your Lordship be of opinion that weight should be attached to the above consideration, I could find a plausihle reason for its postponement.

No. 158.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 59.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 28, 1896.

AMONG the cases I have mentioned to the Moorish Government as requiring settlement is that of the robbery, at the gates of Tetuan, of the effects of Mr. Ehrenbach, as I regret to say that no results have attended the several representations of the Legation in regard to the arrest of the robbers and the restoration of the stolen property. Sir E. Satow was informed, in Lord Kimberley's despatch No. 24 of the 20th February, 1895, that Her Majesty's Government did not desire to claim compensation for the loss of property, but that efforts were to be continued for the arrest of the guilty parties.

I have again urged on the Moorish Government the above measure, but as eighteen months have elapsed since the occurrence of the robbery, I am afraid there is little hope of either the thieves or the property being discovered. In these circumstances, as the local authorities have not shown the requisite energy, and have treated the matter with some negligence, I would ask your Lordship whether a claim for compensation should not now be presented. Mr. Ehrenbach appears to have lost personal property of the value of 137*l.*, and his guide property to the value of 12*l.*, or 150*l.* in all. The value of his collection of postage stamps, which were also stolen, he estimates at 800*l.*

As a certain negligence was shown by Mr. Ehrenbach in leaving this property under the sole charge of a muleteer, and as it would be almost impossible to explain to the Moorish Government the worth of a collection which appears to them meaningless and of insignificant value, I would submit that a claim on its account be withheld, and that one for the actual personal effects be alone presented.

If your Lordship agrees with this view, I would present a claim for 150*l.* to the Moorish Government. This termination of the case would probably be accepted by them. It would not be a satisfactory termination, but, as matters now stand, it seems to me the best that can be attained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 159.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 28, 1896.

THE Scotch missionaries resident in this capital requested me to endeavour to obtain for them a site for a cemetery, as they now number about twelve individuals, and in case of death the body has to be transported to Mogador, a distance of over 100 miles. There are a few other Europeans resident here, and the want of a Christian cemetery might be keenly and painfully felt. The late Sir W. Kirby-Green obtained a promise from the former Sultan that a site would be accorded, but no further steps seem to have been taken.

I laid the matter before the Grand Vizier, and have been informed that the Sultan will grant a suitable site outside of the town, and will cause it to be inclosed by a wall. I was also told that the key of the gate of the cemetery will be intrusted to the Governor of the town, who will be responsible for the preservation of the cemetery from desecration and insult. I trust that this engagement on the part of the Sultan will be properly and speedily carried into effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 160.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, April* 28, 1896.

MR. WHITE sent me a copy of his despatch No. 43 of the 18th instant relative to the report that the French Government had obtained from the Sultan the right to introduce goods over the Algerian frontier, free of duty. I mentioned the matter to the Grand Vizier this afternoon, as a rumour which had reached me. His Excellency seemed somewhat taken aback, and replied that the matter was not as I had heard it. He then went into a very confused and rambling statement as to the contraband trade which the Governor of Oujda had reported was being carried on, and that he had consequently sent an official to the frontier to report. If it were found that goods were being transported across the frontier and evading the Custom-house, they would be confiscated. I told his Excellency that I was not alluding to contraband trade, but to a report that the French Government had obtained permission to introduce goods free of duty. He replied that such an idea had never occurred to him, even in his dreams, and he could assure me that the French authorities had not written him a word on the subject.

His manner struck both myself and Kaïd MacLean, who was acting as my interpreter, as not being straightforward, and his evident confusion as indicating that my remarks had surprised him, and taken him unawares.

I told his Excellency that if any special privileges were accorded to French trade, other Powers would demand and insist upon similar treatment, as they were entitled to do under Treaty engagements. In regard to contraband trade, it seemed to me that one Custom-house on a long line of frontier was insufficient, and offered no security against an active system of smuggling. I had been informed that a large export trade of cattle was being carried on across the frontier, which was seriously affecting the Tangier cattle trade, and naturally causing heavy losses to the Sultan's revenue.

His Excellency answered that he agreed with me as to the insufficiency of the Custom-house control, and that he had placed soldiers on the frontier, but that probably both they and the officials were bribed to shut their eyes. The illicit cattle export was engaging his serious attention, and he intended to take measures to prevent it.

Your Lordship is aware that Tangier is the only port whence cattle are permitted to be exported, and that an export duty per head is charged. The temptation is therefore great for districts in the neighbourhood of the Algerian frontier to send their animals across the line, and evade both duty and a long march to the port.

It is hardly likely that the French Government have requested that French goods should enter entirely free from duty, but it is possible that some concessions have been accorded, which the Vizier is anxious not to make public.

Before my departure from the Court I will return again to the subject and endeavour to elicit some further information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 161.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 62.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, May* 1, 1896.

AT an interview with the Grand Vizier yesterday his Excellency spontaneously observed that he wished to renew his assurances that no concessions of any nature had been made in regard to French trade over the Algerian frontier; and that all that had been done was the dispatch of an official to inquire into and report upon the alleged contraband traffic.

I asked his Excellency if I was to understand that goods of Algerian manufacture, such as native clothing, paid duty similarly with those of other countries. The Vizier replied in the affirmative to this inquiry. I put this question as Kaïd MacLean had informed me that his Excellency at our previous interview had stated that native clothing made in Algeria was, or would be, admitted duty free. This statement he had at the time hurriedly withdrawn, and requested that it should not be translated to me.

I am inclined to think that some discussion has been proceeding in regard to some commercial concessions, but after the positive statement made to me yesterday, it was useless endeavouring to elicit the real truth of the case from the Vizier himself.

On my return to Tangier I will ask the Spanish Minister to make further inquiries of his correspondents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 162.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 63. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, May* 4, 1896.

MR. WHITE sent me a copy of his despatch to your Lordship, No. 52 of the 28th ultimo, reporting a conversation with the Spanish Minister relative to the delimitation of the neutral zone at Melilla.

The Grand Vizier appears to have stated in his note to M. de Ojeda that the Court would shortly proceed to Fez, and that then an expedition would be sent to the Riff country to enable the Treaty stipulations to be carried out. From what I have learnt here there seems little probability of the Court returning to Fez for some time to come. The present intention, I am informed, is to stay here for a period of eighteen months or two years, and then to spend some time at Rabat. Most of the high officials here have sent for their wives and families, which would indicate their belief in a prolonged residence at this capital. The return of the Court to Fez would, therefore, in all likelihood be in the somewhat distant future.

The information, which I reported in my despatch No. 42 of the 10th ultimo, as to the payment of an indemnity being substituted for the delimitation of the neutral zone was derived by Kaid Maclean from Dr. Cortès, the Spanish Agent at the Shereefian Court.

Dr. Cortès is at present on leave of absence, and he may possibly discuss this point with the Spanish Legation at Tangier, and the Spanish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 163.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 64.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, May* 5, 1896.

I REPORTED to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1 of the 1st January that I had presented a claim for 3,500*l.* on account of the pillage of the stores of Messrs. Lamb, at Saffi.

The Moorish Government have informed me that they are taking steps to obtain payment of this sum from those who committed the outrage, and that the money will be paid over to Messrs. Lamb as it is received. They hope that all will be paid in three or four months' time, but the Moorish Government have undertaken, in case the total amount is not collected within twelve months, to make good themselves the balance due to Mr. Lamb before the expiration of that period.

This arrangement seems to offer a satisfactory settlement of the case, and I have consequently informed the Moorish Government that I accept it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 164.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 65.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, May* 6, 1896.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 14 of the 27th April, relative to the proposed Moorish Mission to England.

The Mission would be one of simple courtesy, and would not, I think, visit any other country but England, as I believe has been the custom with regard to the Missions sent in recent years to Germany, France, and Italy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 165.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 66.)

My Lord, *Morocco City, May* 5, 1896.

BEFORE my departure from Tangier I was requested by the Diplomatic Body to endeavour to obtain permission from the Moorish Government for the construction of a landing jetty at Tangier, the present stone pier being quite dilapidated and also useless at low water. The general idea of the Diplomatic Body was to construct a pier by private enterprise, and defray the interest on the capital and other expenses by tolls on passengers.

I found the Moorish Government not unwilling to consent to the construction of a jetty, but much averse to its being carried out by private enterprise, and to its administration being submitted to foreign control.

After considerable discussion I have come to an arrangement with the Moorish Government, which will, I think, meet the requirements of the case, and supply a much needed want at Tangier.

The Moorish Government consent to a wooden pier 300 yards in length, being constructed at a cost not to exceed 25,000 dollars. This sum they will pay as soon as a contract has been made with an engineer. There will be two inspectors of the pier, one Moorish and one European, and four toll-collectors, two Moorish and two Europeans. A crane for hoisting cargo out of the lighters will be erected, and a double line of rails with trollies placed on the pier for the conveyance of goods to the Custom-house. As the pier will run out 300 yards, the mail packets will be able to come alongside, and I have obtained permission for this to be done, so that passengers may disembark straight from the steamers.

The Hygienic Council received a small amount annually from the tolls collected from the present pier, and I have obtained an undertaking from the Moorish Government to pay the Council 1,000 dollars annually in lieu of this contribution. The Moorish Government will pay five years in advance, and I am to receive 5,000 dollars in payment of the first quinquennial contribution. This sum will be welcome to the Council, and will enable it to undertake some urgent improvements. The tolls of the new pier will be paid into the Moorish Government, who undertake to keep the pier in proper repair. The joint control will be a guarantee that the tolls will be properly collected and the necessary repairs made.

I may add that the Moorish Government have also granted a sum of 3,000 dollars for the improvement of the drainage at Tangier.

The pier will be a great boon both to passengers and importers of goods. The landing at present is very inconvenient to the former, and much damage is done to goods by their transport from lighters on to the backs of men to the seashore. If the undertaking is a success, I trust it will encourage the Moorish Government to execute other improvements in some of the coast towns.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 166.

Jewish Conjoint Foreign Committee to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 18.)

My Lord, 36, *Finsbury Circus, London, May* 14, 1896.

ON behalf of the Conjoint Jewish Committee, we have to thank your Lordship for having been pleased to communicate to us confidentially a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier relative to the condition of the Mellah at Mogador. We have also to ask your Lordship to be so good as to convey to Sir Arthur Nicolson our thanks for the thoughtful attention he has given to this subject, and the steps he is kind enough to recommend with a view to the removal of the existing evils.

We have carefully considered Sir A. Nicolson's suggestions and entirely approve the same. We trust he will succeed in securing from His Shereefian Majesty the grant of a suitable site for a new Mellah under reasonable conditions. We believe that the formation of a Rent Committee, composed of Jews and Christians with functions such as Sir Arthur Nicolson proposes, would remove and prevent the recurrence of the gross abuses now pressing so heavily on the unfortunate occupiers of the Mellah. We presume that the Regulations would provide for the filling up of vacancies as they arise in the personnel of the Committee, and for the presentation of a Report at fixed periods to some central authority. Possibly your Lordship would permit its being sent on to the British Minister at Tangier, who would no doubt forward a copy to the Foreign Office. We venture respectfully to suggest that unless these precautions be embodied in the arrangement, the system may in course of time lapse into neglect and decay.

Again thanking your Lordship for your good offices in the matter so beneficently exerted.

(Signed) CLAUDE G. MONTEFIORE,
President of the Anglo-Jewish Association.
JOSEPH SEBAG MONTEFIORE,
President of the Jewish Board of Deputies.

No. 167.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 17.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 19, 1896, 6·5 P.M.

IF postponement can be managed without giving offence, I think that it would be as well to defer visit for the reason you mention in your telegram No. 26 of the 19th instant.

No. 168.

North-West African Company to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 21.)

My Lord, 132, *Cheapside, London, May* 20, 1896.

THE Directors of the North-West African Company (Limited) instruct me to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 12th instant, informing them that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier is of opinion that it is undesirable to present a claim for interest upon the delayed payment of the balance of the Cape Juby purchase-money.

They would respectfully draw the attention of your Lordship to the fact that the payment was delayed seven months, and that, consequent upon the delay, arrangements had to be made whereby the persons entitled to the money incurred an actual loss thereon of 5 per cent. Under the circumstances, the Directors are of opinion that it is reasonable that the Sultan should be required to pay a further sum equal to six months' interest at 5 per cent., namely, 625*l.*, but they desire to add that, if such demand cannot be made without causing irritation, they will be quite willing to leave in the hands of your Lordship the question as to the advisability or otherwise of presenting same.

I am, &c.

(For the North-West African Company, Limited),
(Signed) GEO. RAYNOR, *Secretary.*

No. 169.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Morocco City, May* 7, 1896.

I HAD the honour of a farewell audience of the Sultan yesterday morning, and I am leaving for Tangier on the 9th instant.

Although I had no cases of importance to discuss with the Moorish Government, there were a considerable number of minor questions, and I am happy to state that I found the authorities anxious to deal expeditiously and satisfactorily with them. Out of some thirty-five cases they have settled about thirty, or placed them in the way of arrangement.

I do not know, however, whether this conciliatory attitude would have been continued, if more serious matters had been brought to the notice of the Moorish Government, as I fear there is but little disposition to undertake real measures of reform.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 170.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 68.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 15, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 16 of the 4th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Spanish cruiser "Isla de Cuba" left Tangier yesterday for Mazagan to receive the balance due from the Moorish Government on account of the Melilla indemnity.

The Moorish Government have consented to pay interest on the amount at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the eight and a-half months that the payment is overdue, and also to pay either in gold, or in silver with the premium on gold at the present rate. With regard to the French silver, which the Moorish Government claimed should be received at par in the place of gold, it has been arranged that the "Isla de Cuba" should convey it to Tangier free of charge, and that the Moorish authorities should then purchase bills of exchange on Paris, which would be received as the equivalent of gold.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 171.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 44.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 22, 1896.

I FORWARDED a copy of your despatch No. 39 of the 9th ultimo, describing the condition of the Mellah at Mogador, to the Jewish Conjoint Foreign Committee. I now transmit to you a copy of their reply,* requesting that their thanks may be conveyed to you for the attention you have given to the subject, and at the same time making certain recommendations which they desire to see embodied in any arrangement that may be made.

I have to request that you will take such steps as may appear to you to be judicious in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 166.

No. 172.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 45.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 22, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 60 of the 28th ultimo respecting the want of a burial place for the use of the Scottish missionaries and other Europeans resident in Morocco city.

I approve the action taken by you in order to obtain a suitable site for a Christian cemetery in that locality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 173.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 46.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 22, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 66 of the 5th instant, reporting that the Moorish Government have agreed to construct a landing jetty at Tangier, and to improve the drainage of that port.

I approve the arrangements you have made with them in regard to these matters.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 174.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(*Received May* 23.)

Sir, 7, *Whitehall Gardens, London, May* 22, 1896.

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant forwarding Confidential print of a despatch from Tangier, with inclosure, on the subject of an alleged arrangement between France and Morocco, under which French goods will be permitted to be imported into Morocco over the land frontier from Algeria free of duty.

The Board desire me to state, for Lord Salisbury's information, that if the reports which have reached Her Majesty's Legation at Tangier on this matter are well founded, such an arrangement as that referred to would appear to be an infringement of the most-favoured-nation Article of the Treaty of 1856 between Morocco and this country. It is possible, of course, that there may be some inaccuracy in the statements which have been made, but, in any case, in view of the importance of the matter, I am to suggest, for his Lordship's consideration, that it might be well to cause instructions to be issued both to the Legation at Tangier and to the Embassy at Paris with the object of procuring further and more authoritative information upon the subject.

The Board are led to make this suggestion, partly on account of the fact that considerable interest is displayed by commercial bodies in this country in the development of African markets as outlets for British trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BATEMAN.

No. 175.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 47.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 23, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 61, Confidential, of the 28th ultimo, respecting a report that the French Government had obtained from the Sultan the right to introduce goods into Morocco free of duty over the Algerian frontier.

I approve the language held by you to the Grand Vizier on this subject, and on the illicit export of cattle over the same frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 176.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir. A. Nicolson.

(No. 48.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 23, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No 64. of the 5th instant reporting the measures taken by the Moorish Government with regard to the payment of the claim for 3,500*l.* on account of the pillage of the stores of Messrs. Lamb, at Saffi.

I approve your action in accepting these arrangements as likely to offer a satisfactory settlement of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 177.

Foreign Office to the Jewish Conjoint Foreign Committee.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 23, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge your letter of the 14th instant in regard to the Jewish Mellah at Mogador.

In reply, I am to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier will be instructed to take such steps as may be possible to secure the adoption of the suggestions made by the Jewish Conjoint Foreign Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 178.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 28.)

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 27, 1896.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, with reference to your letter of the 13th instant, the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Governor of Gibraltar, reporting that the indemnity remitted by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier has been paid to the duly authorized attorney of the parties interested in the "Virgen de los Angeles."

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Gibraltar, May* 18, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 9th instant, transmitting further correspondence relative to the attack by Riff Moors on the "Virgen de los Angeles," and to inform you that the indemnity remitted by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier was paid on the 8th instant to the duly authorized attorney of the owner, master, and crew, and the owner of the cargo on his furnishing receipts for the same in full settlement for all claims arising out of the attack.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. BIDDULPH,
General and Governor.

No. 179.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 50.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 28, 1896.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 67 of the 7th instant, reporting that you have had a farewell audience of the Sultan, and that you are preparing to leave Morocco for Tangier.

I take this opportunity of conveying to you my approval of your proceedings during your visit to the Moorish Court, and of the manner in which you have dealt with the various questions which you have been called upon to discuss with the Sultan's Ministers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 180.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 51.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 28, 1896.

UPON the receipt of your telegram No. 24 of the 3rd instant respecting the claim for interest upon the balance of the Cape Juby purchase-money, of which payment has been delayed, I communicated with the North-West Africa Company, and I transmit to you herewith copies of the correspondence which has passed.*

You will notice that the Company, besides having been put to considerable inconvenience by the delay, have been themselves compelled to pay interest at the rate of 5 per cent. for the time during which the payment was deferred. The claim therefore seems to be an equitable one; but, if you consider it useless and undesirable to press it, you are at liberty to use your discretion in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 181.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office. May* 28, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant on the question of the claim of your Company for interest

* Nos. 156, 168, and 181.

upon the balance of the Cape Juby purchase-money for the period during which payment has been delayed.

I am to state that his Lordship will communicate further with Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 182.

The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.

(No. 185. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 29, 1896.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier* respecting an alleged arrangement between France and Morocco, under which French goods may be imported into Morocco over the Algerian frontier free of duty.

I also transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Board of Trade,† containing observations on Mr. White's despatch.

I should be glad to receive any information which your Excellency may be able to obtain on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 183.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 52.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 29, 1896.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 43 of the 18th ultimo respecting an alleged arrangement between France and Morocco, under which French goods may be imported into Morocco over the Algerian frontier free of duty, I transmit to you herewith copy of a letter which has been received from the Board of Trade on the subject.†

I should be glad to receive any further information which you may be able to obtain in regard to the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 184.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 2.)

(No. 69.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 25, 1896.

DURING my stay at Morocco City the Moorish Government expressed a desire to send some officers and musicians to England to receive instruction in military drill and music. The number they proposed to send was thirty officers and ten musicians; and the Moorish Government would bear all the expenses for their journey and maintenance in England.

Your Lordship is no doubt aware that most of the regular infantry soldiers in the Sultan's army are instructed in English drill, and that the words of command are given in English, a system which, for several reasons, I would submit it is not undesirable to maintain and continue.

Some slight general benefit may also be attained by encouraging Moors, whether civil or military, to obtain some knowledge of foreign countries, and to pass beyond the very limited horizon which at present circumscribes them.

The Moorish Government contemplated dispatching this detachment of military men with as little delay as possible, but it seems to me that their departure immediately

* No. 120. † No. 174.

after my Mission to the Shereefian Court might give rise to the supposition that their visit to England had been specially urged by me, and that it formed part possibly of a more comprehensive scheme. There is so much local distrust in regard to Missions to the Shereefian Court, and so much reluctance to believe that a Mission has no deep-laid projects in view, that it is as well not to give, unnecessarily, any cause for additional suspicion.

As your Lordship has agreed with this view, I have told Kaïd Maclean to acquaint the Moorish Government that there will be no objection to the visit of the officers, and that arrangements will be made for affording them the desired instruction, but that it would be more convenient if the visit could be made in the autumn, when there is more leisure to attend to the men and to their requirements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 185.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received June* 4.)

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 1, 1896.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, with reference to the letter from this Office of the 12th May, two despatches from the Governor of Gibraltar,* inclosing documents relating to the alleged attack on the falucho "San José," off the Riff coast of Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 186.

Foreign Office to Mr. R. Ehrenbach.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 4, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 20th February, 1895, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on the subject of the robbery of your property by Moors near Tetuan in November 1894.

Her Majesty's Legation have repeatedly urged the Moorish Government to adopt energetic measures with a view to the arrest of the guilty persons and the recovery of the stolen property, but the steps taken with that object have led to no result, and there appears to be little prospect of either the thieves or the property being discovered. Sir A. Nicolson considers that the local authorities have not pursued their investigations with sufficient energy, and in view of this circumstance he suggests that he should be authorized to demand some compensation for the loss sustained by you, although, in view of the fact that negligence was shown in leaving valuable property in the charge of a single muleteer at nightfall, in an uncivilized country, an application for payment of more than a small part of the sum claimed by you would not be justified.

The value of the personal property lost by you appears to have been 137*l.*, and that of the property of your guide 12*l.* Sir A. Nicolson considers that, in the circumstances, the utmost demand that could properly be made would be for the payment of these amounts, and he therefore suggests that he should be authorized to present a claim for 150*l.* to the Moorish Government on your behalf, making no claim in respect to the postage stamps which formed part of the stolen property.

Lord Salisbury proposes to approve the course suggested by Sir A. Nicolson.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

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* Not printed.

No. 187.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 70.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 1, 1896.*

FROM information which I have received from Morocco city it would appear that the Government is continuing its policy of dispatching expeditions among the tribes whose loyalty is considered doubtful.

A force was recently sent against the Demnat and hill tribes, which succeeded in killing and making prisoners a certain number of men, and it is reported that the tribes now desire to make their submission. The Government is also preparing an expedition to consist of 1,000 cavalry, 1,000 infantry, and some mountain guns, to operate in the Sooz district, and it is likely this force will meet with considerable opposition.

The tribes in the Angera district have again become disturbed, and I hear privately from Tetuan that there have been some serious conflicts among the hill men, and that the road between Tangier and the above town is unsafe.

The Governor of Tetuan is an old man, and of a timorous disposition, and with the small force at his disposal is unable to preserve proper order in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 188.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 71.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 2, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 70 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, reporting on the present disturbed state of the country between this town and Tetuan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Tetuan, June 1, 1896.*

I NOW have the honour to report the outbreak of the tribes round here, of which I have already given you private information.

On the 29th ultimo the Benider tribe having got some of the Wad Dras and Angera people to join them attacked the Beni Housmar tribe, and since then have burnt the following villages or groups of houses: Dar Eskieh, Dar-ben-Karish, Dar-el-Haiyat, Dar Ahowsan, Rara, Dar Asmish, Jamma Temsatu, Zeenat, and Bonhallet, and are reported to have carried off nearly all the cattle therefrom.

These places, I understand, all lie together, and the nearest, Dar Eskieh, is under one hour from the town.

It is impossible to give any particulars as to the number of the killed and wounded on either side, as accounts vary so very much, but there seems to be no doubt that the Benider have suffered most, and they are said to have tried to make peace, but the Beni Housmar, having got the Beni Tait, a small but said to be valorous tribe, to join them, have refused, and report says there is to be a big fight to-day.

There is an old standing feud between the Benider and the Beni Housmar, but no outbreak on this scale was expected; in fact, they were supposed to be arranging terms of settlement, but could not agree as to where the hostages were to be placed, the Beni Housmar claiming that they should be with the Governor of this town, and the Benider saying they must be placed with the Governor of Tangier.

On the 29th ultimo a Jew muleteer coming from Tangier was attacked and robbed by the Benider, who followed him until he had got into the Beni Housmar district; but one of his animals and part of his goods have been given up.

The Beni Housmar watched one of the Benider who came into the town yesterday to buy powder, &c., and robbed and murdered him as soon as he got outside the gates.

The country people have been buying large quantities of powder and bullets, and I have heard it stated that on the 29th ultimo at least 6 cwt. of bullets were sold in the town.

A good many of the Beni Maddan people have come into the town for safety, and it is said that some of their men went to the assistance of the Beni Housmar, but turned back directly they had had one or two killed and wounded.

I understood the Governor to tell me that he was going to send soldiers to protect the road to Tangier, but on asking him again about this he said that he would not do it at all. What he had tried to do was to get some of the villages along the road to guard it, but that they had declined, as they said it would only get them into trouble with the tribes that are fighting.

I hear now that there are a good many parties of robbers along the road.

I asked the Governor if nothing could be done to stop the fighting, but he said the time had not yet come, but that he did not think it would last long.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 189.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 8, 1896.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 69 of the 25th ultimo, reporting that you had explained to the Moorish Government that it would be more convenient that the proposed visit of Moorish officers and musicians to England should be postponed until the autumn.

I approve your proceedings in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 190.

Mr. Ehrenbach to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

My Lord, *Carlsbad, Bohemia, June 6, 1896.*

I BEG to own receipt of your favour of the 4th instant respecting a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on the subject of the robbery of my property near Tetuan in November 1894.

Knowing that my interests will be fully guarded by your Lordship, I can do no better than endorse anything you may do on my behalf.

I am therefore thankfully prepared to leave the whole matter as to an adequate compensation in the able hands of your Lordship and those of Sir A. Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT EHRENBACH.

No. 191.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 57.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 12, 1896.*

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 36 of the 3rd April, I transmit to you herewith documents which have been received from the Colonial Office respecting the alleged attack on the falucho "San José" off the Riff coast of Morocco.*

* See No. 185.

In the present state of the information in my possession, the case does not appear to be one in which a claim can properly be made for compensation. You should, however, take any steps that may be in your power to ascertain the real facts, and, in the meanwhile, I shall be glad to receive your observations on the inclosed documents. They are forwarded in original, and should eventually be returned to this Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 192.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 58.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 16, 1896.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of correspondence with Mr. R. Ehrenbach relative to the robbery of his property by Moors near Tetuan in November 1894,* which formed the subject of your despatch No. 59 of the 28th April last.

I authorize you to proceed as proposed by you, and to present to the Moorish Government a claim for the payment of 150*l.* as compensation to Mr. Ehrenbach for his loss.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 193.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 4, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 44 of the 22nd ultimo regarding the extension of the Mellah at Mogador, I have the honour to report that I found the Moorish Government unwilling to desist from their condition that the houses should become their exclusive property after twenty years. This condition, if insisted upon, would effectually debar any one from incurring the expense of building; and, as my time at Morocco city was limited, I promised, on my return to this town, to communicate a fresh proposal to the Government, which I hoped would reconcile conflicting views.

I beg leave to transmit copy of a note which I have addressed to the Grand Vizier on the subject. The ground which would be granted as a site would be a waste piece, and its value insignificant, so that the ground-rent which I have suggested would have to be moderate in amount. I did not like to commit myself to any definite proposal as to the amount of rent till I knew whether the suggestion would commend itself to the Moorish Government, and till I had consulted local and expert opinion on the subject. Ground-rents are a novelty to the Moorish Government, and they may be indisposed to entertain the idea, but it seems to me that the suggestion now made offers a fair solution of the difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 193.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

Tangier, June 4, 1896.

YOU will doubtless remember, oh, friend, that when I had the pleasure of seeing you at Marakesh we spoke about extending the Mellah at Mogador, with the object of alleviating the evils at present existing owing to the over-crowding of the Jewish quarter in that town, and that I promised on my return to Tangier to submit a proposal to you which I hoped would meet the wishes of all parties.

* Nos. 186 and 190.

The Government of His Majesty—whom God protect—formerly granted a site of ground on which new houses should be built, but they imposed as a condition that after twenty years the houses should become the exclusive property of the Moorish Government. It was on this condition that the excellent intentions of the Government were shipwrecked, as no one was willing to incur the expense of building a house which after a lapse of time ceased to be his property. I am aware that the Government intended to give the ground gratis and also to build a wall round the new quarter, a matter entailing expense, and for which, with reason, the Government expected to be reimbursed. In order to reconcile the divergent views at present existing, and which, unless brought into harmony, may delay indefinitely the accomplishment of a much-needed work, I would suggest the following plan.

That the Government grant a site of ground for building purposes, and that lots be allotted to those who desire to build, that the houses which individuals build remain their own property without limitation of time, but that a reasonable rent be paid to the Government for the use of the ground and to defray the expenses of the wall.

There are several other points which are desirable to arrange in regard to sanitary matters, over-crowding, and amount of rent, but these points I would defer writing upon till I know whether the above proposal is acceptable to your Excellency. As to what amount of rent for use of the ground and the expenses of the wall should be, I would, on receiving your reply, oh, friend, write to you again. I wish in this letter to know whether the general proposal is pleasing or not to you, and may you continue to enjoy health and prosperity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 194.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 74.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 11, 1896.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 51 of the 28th ultimo relative to the claim for interest upon the balance of the Cape Juby purchase-money. I am afraid that the presentation of the claim, although a perfectly equitable one, would lead to a lengthy discussion, and that the payment of it would only be attained after considerable pressure had been employed. I was originally of opinion that, owing to the delay in the payment of the balance, it would be advisable to present and enforce a claim for interest; but on personal inquiry at the Court of impartial persons, it appeared that the force of circumstances, and not ill-will or a desire to evade engagements, had prevented the Government from fulfilling its obligations at the stipulated date. It would, I venture to submit, therefore, appear to the Moorish Government a somewhat harsh proceeding if we were severely exacting on the point of punctual payment, and I trust that the Company will not consider I have unreasonably neglected their interests if in the circumstances I exercise the latitude allowed to me by your Lordship, and do not address the Shereefian Court on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 195.

Mr. Raikes to the Marquess of Salisbury—(Received June 19.)

(No. 56.)
My Lord, *Petropolis, May* 29, 1896.

WITH reference to Lord Kimberley's despatch No. 19, Confidential, of 7th March, 1895, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. de Carvalho, in his Report to the President of the Republic, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 50 of the 25th instant, refers to the abuses in connection with the protection given to natives of Morocco by the Brazilian Consul, in the following terms:—

"After a short residence in Brazil, and sometimes even without it, they obtain the status of Brazilian citizens and, returning to their native country, avail themselves of this status to place themselves under the protection of the Brazilian Consular authority.

"They acquire nationality fraudulently."

M. de Carvalho has therefore suggested to the Minister of the Interior and Justice, by whose Department nationality cases are dealt with, that the Brazilian Consulate in Tangier should be suppressed.

His Excellency also mentions that the Consul has lately been placed in a difficult position by having to defend the interests of persons who had thus fraudulently acquired Brazilian nationality.

I should add that the day after the publication of the Report a letter appeared in the "Jornal do Commercio," protesting against the suppression of the Consulate on the ground that there are a large number of Moors in Pará and other northern States, many of whom, and in particular their children, have become Brazilian citizens in a perfectly legitimate manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR S. RAIKES.

No. 196.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 20.)

(No. 75. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 12, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 23 of the 16th February last relative to the protection accorded by the young Shereefs of Wazzan to villages in the neighbourhood of the Tangier district, the Spanish Minister read to me to-day a despatch he had received from his Government, giving the substance of a conversation which the Spanish Ambassador in Paris had held with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs on the above subject. M. Hanotaux is reported to have assured the Spanish Ambassador that France desired in no wise to take any steps in Morocco which could cause annoyance to Spain at the moment when the latter was preoccupied in Cuba, and that the French Government would be indisposed, in any case, to encourage acts of the nature reported. M. Hanotaux further remarked that the young Shereefs were not suitable instruments to whom to intrust the execution of any policy. They had neither the intelligence, nor enjoyed the influence and popularity of their late father, and merely gave trouble to the French Legation with their petty claims and pretensions.

M. de Ojéda, after reading me the above report, said that while I was absent at Court one of the young Shereefs had left Tangier for Wazzan, but on his way was making a somewhat prolonged tour in the Riff country. He knew that, prior to his departure, the Shereef had had frequent interviews with the French Minister, and if it were contemplated pursuing the same tactics in the Riff district as had been pursued last winter in this neighbourhood the matter would have greater importance to Spain.

I told M. de Ojéda that I had heard quite recently that M. de Moubel had withdrawn the protection accorded to the natives in this neighbourhood, and that my informant had reported that this had been done in consequence of representations from the Moorish Government. A ready acquiescence on the part of the French Minister with the wishes of the Moorish Government on such a question seemed to me rather improbable, and it was more likely that, if my information were correct, M. de Moubel had withdrawn the protection in consequence of instructions from his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 197.

Foreign Office to Jewish Conjoint Foreign Committee.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 22, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 23rd ultimo respecting the extension of the Mellah at Mogador, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, stating that, as the Moorish Government were unwilling to desist from their condition that the houses built in the new quarter should become their exclusive property after twenty years, he had suggested to the Grand Vizier that the Moorish Government should grant a site of ground for building purposes, that lots should be apportioned to those who desire to build, that the houses built should remain the property of the individual builders without limitation of time, but that a reasonable rent be paid to the Government for the use of the ground and for the purpose of defraying the cost of a wall to be constructed around the new quarter.

Other points respecting sanitary matters, over-crowding, and amount of rent would be discussed with the Government after their decision with regard to the above suggestions should be made known.

Lord Salisbury proposes to approve Sir Arthur Nicolson's action, and I am to inquire whether your Committee has any observations to make on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 198.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 24.)

(No. 28.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 24, 1896.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 57 of 12th June: "San José" piracy case.

Will your Lordship allow me to send for the Vice-Consul at Tetuan to come here for a day or two, in order that I may go into the question with him personally?

No. 199.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 25, 1896.

WITH reference to my letter of the 28th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier reports, with reference to the claim of your Company for interest upon the balance of the Cape Juby purchase-money, that there is no chance of its payment being obtained except after prolonged discussion and the exercise of strong political pressure on the Moorish Government.

Sir A. Nicolson adds that, in view of the fact that undoubtedly the force of circumstances, and not ill-will or a desire to evade engagements, had prevented the Government from fulfilling its obligations to your Company at the stipulated date, the use of such pressure would appear to the Shereefian Court to be a harsh and unfriendly proceeding.

Sir A. Nicolson therefore trusts that the North-West African Company will not consider that their interests have been unduly neglected if, under the circumstances, he refrains from addressing the Moorish Government on the subject.

I am to state that, after careful consideration, Lord Salisbury concurs with Sir A. Nicolson in the opinion that it would be undesirable to prefer the claim.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 200.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 76.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke relative to the contraband trade with the Moorish coast. I have also sent a copy to the Governor of Gibraltar, as I thought he might wish to be placed in possession of Mr. Bewicke's suggestions. I should doubt if an occasional visit of a gun-boat would be very efficacious, and it might lead to other complications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 200.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Tetuan, June* 13, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to call your attention to the smuggling that goes on on this coast.

Now that M. H. Bland and Company are running a steamer to this port the feluccas can get very little legitimate cargo, and are, I fear, turning their attention to the contraband trade, as lately I have heard of several lots of contraband being said to have been landed not far from here, and only recently the Custom-house authorities caught some mules laden with sulphur, which I fear there is very little doubt had been landed ex-British felucca "San José."

I now hear that the British felucca "Tres Amigos" left Gibraltar with a full cargo about the 7th instant, but the master presented a very small manifest here on the 8th, and the inference is that he had discharged previous to arrival here.

The Custom-house authorities are taking more precautions here, and have appointed an official to examine all vessels on arrival, but, as far as I can learn, very little contraband is landed here, but, if taken, is landed somewhere along the coast or transhipped into a Riff boat outside.

I was under the impression that these vessels had to present copy of manifest to the Captain of the Port of Gibraltar, but I am now told this is not the case.

I venture to suggest that if an order could be given that these vessels should give a copy of their mainifest to the Captain of the Port at Gibraltar before sailing, it would have a deterrent effect, as any one accustomed to their appearance would be able to detect if they were carrying much more than appeared in their manifest, and when any suspicion arose the vessel might be searched.

If, in addition to this, a gun-boat could be detached to make an occasional trip along this coast, and to search any vessel out of her proper course, I think the contraband trade would be put an end to as far as regards British vessels, as it would become too risky.

The Custom-house official appointed to examine vessels told me the other day he thought only three vessels were actively engaged at present in contraband, viz., "San José" and "Angelitto," British, and the "San Miguel," Spanish.

The "San José" and the "Tres Amigos" are both registered as belonging to M. Diaz, but, as I reported to Her Majesty's Consul in my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I believe these vessels belong to a Syndicate, but [? though] of this I have no proof.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 201.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 77.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean, reporting some disturbances among the M'zab tribes in the neighbourhood of Dar-al-Baida. These troubles are especially to be regretted, as I fear that they will cause losses to British merchants, and that the orders which I had obtained from the Shereefian Court for a settlement by the tribes of their just debts will now be rendered nugatory.

I have no information as to the reason for the imprisonment and dismissal of the Governor of the M'zab district, but the Government appear to be making several changes, and not very wise ones, in the provincial Governorships. The Basha of Mecquinez, for instance, who bore a high character among Europeans, has been deputed to command the contemplated expedition in the Sûs district, and has been replaced by an unworthy successor, and I have also heard that the Governor of the Abda district is to be removed.

I am afraid that if the Government pursue their present policy the country will relapse into disorder and discontent at a moment when some years of peace and tranquillity were most urgently needed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, June* 13, 1896.

NEWS arrived here on Tuesday, the 9th instant, that Ben Hamed, Kaïd of M'zab, who was in Marakesh attending the Sultan's Court, had been imprisoned by the Government.

On Friday, the 5th instant, Kaïd Allal, a Colonel of Mohaznees, arrived at M'zab at the head of fifty men, and accompanied by an Ameen, the nephew of Sid Abdslam Tazzi.

Bel Arby, the Acting Governor of M'zab, entertained all these people during Saturday in a garden.

On the evening of that day Kaïd Allal sent for a man named Hadj Abdelkader, belonging to the tribe called Kh'lf, and presented him with a Shereefian letter appointing him Kaïd in place of Ben Hamed, and requesting him to call his brethren together, as well as the tribe of Ashash, to assist in the morning at the arrest of Bel Arby, the Acting Governor. These steps were taken secretly.

When Sunday dawned messengers summoned Bel Arby to Kaïd Allal's tent, but the former would not attend the summons, and, suspecting something was wrong, he promptly shot the man who had delivered Kaïd Allal's message, and escaped through one of the many ingeniously-contrived outlets from his house.

By this time the tribesmen called together by the new Kaïd Hadj Abdelkader arrived on the scene. Kaïd Allal, with them and his own men, entered the Kasbah, and immediately there issued a confusion impossible to describe. First, the Moslem quarter was pillaged, then the Jewry, and, lastly, the Kaïd's house. Everything was wrecked, and buildings were fired to make the occupants come out. The women were seized, men who were not killed were stripped, and those who escaped fled with their bare skins only.

Many cruelties were perpetrated; Kaïd Allal's own men joined in the looting, and he himself was made prisoner, but was afterwards ransomed for two Winchester rifles as security for 50 dollars.

All the Jews escaped, excepting one who was killed, and they are now in refuge in outlying districts.

A young Spaniard also escaped, disguised as a Moslem. His fate was only ascertained this morning, when he arrived in Dar-al-Baida.

The tribes have now turned against their new Kaïd, and refused to recognize him.

M'zab is situated about eleven hours' ride south of Dar-al-Baida, towards Marakesh.

Communications were cut off, so no reliable information reached here until refugees, who escaped naked, began to arrived yesterday and to-day, and it is from these eye-witnesses that I have received the details of the occurrence.

Great responsibility rests on the Moorish Government for sending only fifty soldiers to accomplish the arrest of the Acting Governor of a district renowned for its turbulent inhabitants.

Unfortunately, M'zab is an important business centre, and there are considerable British interests affected. Most of the debtors to British firms are left destitute, their houses containing all their goods, money, and documents destroyed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 202.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 17, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 55 of the 10th instant relative to the robbery of Mr. Ehrenbach's property, and to the Foreign Office letter to Mr. Ehrenbach of the 4th instant, I have the honour to state that I have heard from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke that the Governor had confessed to him his inability to trace either robbers or property, and his powerlessness to do anything in the case. I have consequently addressed a note to the Grand Vizier, claiming compensation to the amount of 150*l.*, and I beg leave to transmit a copy of this communication, trusting that this step will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hadj M. Torres.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, June 17, 1896 (5 Moharram, 1314).*

YOUR Excellency may remember that while I was at Marakech I spoke on the subject of the claim of a British subject, Ehrenbach, and that you were good enough to give me a Shereefian letter to the Governor of Tetuan, impressing on him the necessity of discovering the robbers and the stolen property.

I sent this letter to our Vice-Consul at Tetuan for delivery to the Governor, and I now transmit the reply of the latter. I am unaware of the contents of this letter, but from what I have heard there seems little, if any, probability of any recovery being made of the property, or of the robbers being captured. In these circumstances it would be well, oh friend, if the matter were settled definitely, and that some compensation be made to Mr. Ehrenbach for his losses. The case is so well known to your Excellency that I need not recapitulate its details; and although Mr. Ehrenbach lost a very valuable collection of stamps, I should be ready to accept the sum of 150*l.*—or say 900 dollars—as a settlement of the case. This you will see, oh friend, is a far less sum than the value of that which Mr. Ehrenbach lost, and I trust that you will see the justice of the proposed arrangement. I should be glad if your Excellency would send me the above amount for transmission to Mr. Ehrenbach; and I should also be obliged if the Governor of Tetuan be instructed to continue his endeavours to find the collection of stamps, which are of no value whatever to the natives, but are estimated highly by those who make collections of such articles. May you continue in health and prosperity.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 203.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 80. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 21, 1896.*

THE French Minister, in speaking to me to-day on the general situation in this country, appeared to be specially desirous of impressing on me the state of affairs on the Algerian frontier. He said that for some time past he had been receiving urgent representations from the Governor-General of Algeria in regard to the lawlessness which prevailed along the border, and also pressing requests that he would take active steps with the Moorish Government to bring some order into frontier relations, which, if allowed to continue in their present condition, would become intolerable. M. de Monbel said that he had, in view of the difficulties which surrounded the Moorish Government, endeavoured to pursue a conciliatory policy, and to make every allowance for the young Sultan, who was yet scarcely seated firmly on his Throne. He knew that this temporising policy had not been viewed favourably by the Algerian Government, who had been much annoyed by the continual troubles and cattle-lifting raids which were so frequently occurring on the frontier.

He had, at length, procured an engagement from the Moorish Government that due satisfaction and compensation would be accorded to those who had suffered from the incursions of lawless individuals from Moorish territory; and it had been settled that an official should meet a Delegate of the Algerian Government to arrange for compensation, which, he said, amounted to a sum of 16,000*l.*

An officer had been sent from Algeria to meet the Moorish official, but the latter, after delaying his appearance beyond the stipulated date, had, when he did present himself eventually, shown no inclination to come to terms, but apparently desired to revise from the commencement the arrangement which had been arrived at. In these circumstances it was impossible to continue, M. de Monbel said, using gentle means of persuasion, as the Algerian Government had a serious responsibility towards their subjects living near the frontier, who had been so much harassed by their neighbours, and whom it was very difficult to restrain from retaliatory acts. Some steps must be taken to terminate a situation which was, to say the least, unneighbourly, and for the amelioration of which his conciliatory efforts had been unsuccessful.

I asked M. de Monbel what steps were foreshadowed, and I gathered from him that they would, in the first instance, at any rate, be limited to a strong remonstrance to be addressed to the Court. It is possible that such a step, if productive of no satisfactory results, may be but a prelude to others of a more inconvenient character, but on this point M. de Monbel was reserved. It will be very foolish of the Moorish Government if they do not hasten to come to terms with the French authorities on these matters; as they should, as I informed the Grand Vizier at Morocco city, give no cause for any irritation or complaint on the part of their French neighbours, who are in a position to employ very forcible arguments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 204.

Messrs. Dehn and Heine to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

My Lord Marquess, *47, Newton Street, Manchester, June 29, 1896.*

THE last mails from Morocco have brought news with details of the late disturbances in the Province of Msab, and it appears that the cause of the disturbances was the apparently unwarranted imprisonment of the Governor of the province, who on former occasions had shown his devotion to the Sultan, and had caused merchants to believe that they were under sufficient protection.

From the information to hand it appears that the Kasbat, which was fortified, has been razed to the ground, and all property looted or destroyed. Merchants from Casablanca, amongst whom are Dres Kotoni, Mohamed Tassi, and Mohamed-el-Hartzi Slani, appear to have suffered to a considerable extent, and we understand have claimed compensation from the Moorish Government.

We would respectfully submit to the consideration of your Lordship whether, from the fact that British merchants will be the ultimate losers by these occurrences (the Moorish merchants above referred to are indebted to us to a considerable extent in the aggregate), it would not be possible for Her Majesty's Government to instruct the British Representatives in Morocco to support with the Moorish Government the claims of the Moorish merchants where it can be shown that British interests are affected.

Proceedings of that nature would not only be beneficial to British merchants in the above-mentioned individual instances, but would undoubtedly tend to greater care being taken on the part of the Moorish Government to avoid the continuous recurrences of rebellious movements which have during the last few years been so detrimental to the development of trade in Morocco.

We would respectfully suggest that the British Consuls in Rabat and Casablanca should be empowered to give their support to the merchants mentioned above, or to any others whose losses through the rebellion might affect British interests.

We are, &c.

(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND HEINE.

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. April 1897.

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(6890.)

PART 13.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

January to June 1896.